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# HISTORIC LEAVES

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## LITERARY MEN AND WOMEN OF SOMERVILLE.

By David Lee Maulsby.\*

AFTER accepting the invitation of the Somerville Historical Society to address it upon the men and women of this city who have been writers, I found it necessary to draw some lines of limitation about the subject. To treat, even inadequately, all of our fellow-citizens that have issued their thoughts in print would be a greater undertaking than a single hour could see completed. It has seemed wise, therefore, to mark a boundary of demarcation between the dead and the living, and to confine this paper to those Somerville authors that are no longer our flesh-and-blood companions. Thus we shall avoid the embarrassment of selection among present-day writers, and shall also have a subject that is clearly defined, and of moderate extent.

One further limitation has seemed proper. There are two persons of distinction who have lived in Somerville, but who can hardly be included among her literary men. I mean Governor Winthrop and Edward Everett. Neither is literary, in the strictest sense of the word, though both have left books behind them. And in any event their connection with the city seems so remote or so accidental that they may well be dismissed from a paper of this kind, after mere mention.

There is another group of men who stand upon the threshold

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\* The following persons have rendered valuable help to the writer in the preparation of this paper: Mrs. John F. Ayer, Mr. Edwin M. Bacon, Miss Mary Bacon, Mr. Charles D. Elliot, Mr. Sam Walter Foss, Mrs. Mae D. Frazar, Mrs. Barbara Galpin, Mr. J. O. Hayden, Mrs. George T. Knight, Rev. W. H. Pierson, Mr. L. B. Pillsbury, Mrs. Lucy B. Ransom, Rev. Anson Titus, Miss Anna P. Vinal.

of literary work, in having published one or more books, but who fail of entrance into the class we are to consider by reason of the more practical character of their writing. Dr. Luther V. Bell is an example of this class, with his book upon "The Ventilation of Schoolhouses." Another is Colonel Herbert E. Hill, a Vermonter, who fought in the Civil War, and afterward removed to Somerville, where he resided until his death in 1892. It was he who is responsible for the frowning cannon upon Central Hill. Again Colonel Hill showed his generosity and patriotism by the two monuments which he erected on Virginia battlefields, one of them bearing the inscription: "Committed to the care of those once a brave foe, now our generous friends." Colonel Hill has left two addresses on patriotic and historical subjects. Then there is the ex-librarian, John S. Hayes, whose noble work in making our public library more efficient is gratefully remembered. Mr. Hayes gave two notable addresses, one on "The Public Library and the State," the other containing valuable historical information, and delivered at the laying of the cornerstone of the Winter-hill Congregational church. The work of these three men is worthy of cordial appreciation, and is semi-literary in character. If more detailed consideration is given to the names that are to follow, there is no derogation of the value of other sorts of service, only the recognition of literature as in some sense detached from immediately practical ends,—as in a measure itself constituting its own end.

Among the literary men of Somerville, General Douglas Frazar combines the distinction of being both man of affairs and author. His family goes back to William Bradford through his mother, and to John Alden through his father. Although prepared for Harvard, Mr. Frazar chose to go to sea. His father's desire took him to Paris to study the French language, and the Civil War, when it came, drew him into its service; but the main currents of his being set toward the ocean, and it was only through special inducements that his employment, especially in his latter years, was ashore. He was constantly reading and writing, even on board ship. When in business in China, he was correspondent of the Boston Traveler. After his marriage

he wrote for the *Youth's Companion* and Harper's, not to speak in detail of his several lectures and translations.

Mr. Frazar's first book was on "Practical Boat Sailing." The value of this standard treatise is proved by its reappearance in French, German, and Spanish. So much for the practical side. "Perseverance Island" (1884) is a work of juvenile fiction, popular in England, as well as in America. This book out-Crusoes Crusoe. Its hero is cast upon one of the unknown islands of the Pacific, with no friendly well-stored wreck at hand. With almost nothing but his hands and his scientific knowledge, the lonely sailor makes tools and house, gunpowder, bricks, a water wheel, a blast-furnace, even a sub-marine boat and a flying machine. Rich in real estate and in discovered gold, this modern Selkirk is properly rescued at last. "The Log of the Maryland" (1890), in the guise of fiction, is in effect an account of one of Captain Frazar's own voyages. The routine and adventures of a long ocean journey are faithfully told. The sea-fight with Chinese pirates, with which the story closes, bristles with excitement.

Perhaps Mr. Frazar's books are as remarkable for their varied knowledge as for any one quality, though they are interesting, as well. In his active life as a sailor, and in his excursions into French and English literature, he gathered the facts and the readiness of expression which stood him in good stead as an author.

An earlier writer is Isaac F. Shepard, who lived in Somerville and Cambridge. He published much. Besides being editor of the *Christian Souvenir*, and contributing to the *Christian Examiner*, the list of his writings includes: a poem on "The Seventy-first Anniversary of Leicester Academy, Massachusetts," August 7, 1835; a poem on "The Will of God," printed about 1837; a volume of poems, "Pebbles From Castalia," 1840; a "Fourth-of-July Address," given in West Killingly, Conn., 1856.

Mr. Shepard appears to have been a fluent writer of English. His tale, "Lewis Benton," published in 1842, shows considerable facility of expression. It is a temperance story, picturing the deterioration of a well-meaning and able man through a failure



to abstain entirely from the use of liquor. The little volume in which this tale appears is a quaint example of book-making two generations ago. The wood-cuts are especially noteworthy in their crude simplicity, and suggest comparison with the consummate art of our contemporary magazines.

Not yet come into the world when this little book was published, our next author gives the impression of having been a young man when he left the world. Lewis Cass Flanagan was born in Somerville in 1850, and died at North Weymouth in 1900. He was graduated from the Franklin grammar school. Later, though practicing pharmacy, he showed much interest in parliamentary law, conducting a class in this subject at the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston. He was also a student of forestry. Early in life he manifested a taste for literary composition, publishing many articles in prose and poetry in the Cambridge and Somerville papers.

Mr. Flanagan attended the Unitarian church in this city, and wrote a number of prose essays for the meetings of the Unity Club. Selections from his writings were published after his death, under the title, "Essays in Poetry and Prose." Among the prose essays is one containing curious information on "Some Minor Poets of America." Another treats at length the career of Miss Kemble, the actor. A third describes the gray pine of New England. But the most original of the printed prose writings are the burlesque fables. These are whimsical in character, and point a moral, sometimes severe, as often gay. One of the very shortest is as follows:—

#### XXXI.—THE ANT AND THE ELEPHANT.

"An Ant, meeting an Elephant, exclaimed: 'Sirrah! fellow, one of us must turn out.' 'One of us must indeed turn out,' replied the Elephant, as he lifted his foot to advance. Whereupon the Ant ran nimbly to one side, and thus escaped crushing.

" 'I find it best to humor these characters,' said the Ant to herself, as the Elephant passed by; and then, picking up her burden, she regained the highway and continued on her journey.

"Impudence with discretion does fairly well."

Among the poems is a plaintive song of "The Wild Rose." Almost the only poem of a sentimental cast celebrates an experience while the author was journeying homeward from California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He had met a fair stranger on board ship, but now the parting must come. Surely there is a touch of Whittier in the following lines:—

"And that was all. The dream is o'er;  
No word from lip or pen;  
Her smiling eyes I'll see no more,  
Nor hear her voice again.

"Sometimes the past will come to me  
On mem'ry's grateful tide;  
I sail again the western sea,  
And she is by my side.

"The day has melted like a dream  
Beyond the billow's crest,  
And softly now the moonbeams stream  
Across the ocean's breast.

"The night wind sounds a soothing dirge  
Around the corded poles,  
And, stretching far, the phosphor surge  
In chastened splendor rolls. . . .

"Back from the swiftly gliding hull  
There gleams a pathway white,  
O'er which through all the day the gull  
Has winged his silent flight.

"Now with the scene comes gently forth  
The music from her mouth;  
'T is gone, and I am in the North,  
And she is in the South."

The column of Pencillings in the Somerville Journal has long attracted the attention of exchange editors throughout the country. Particularly in the South and West, papers make liberal use of the mingled fun and wisdom to be found in this

treasury. The originator of Pencillings was George Russell Jackson, who in 1877, after twelve years of newspaper experience, began to write for the Journal. He conducted the department until 1884, meanwhile contributing to the paper comical police reports, which were a feature of interest. Mr. Hayden speaks of Mr. Jackson as a born humorist, the peer of any in his native power. He not only wrote fun by the yard, but he overflowed with it in private conversation.

Such writing has an evanescent quality, making quotation hazardous. But the following quatrains are not untimely:—

“When icy blasts come from the pole,  
And redden nose and chin,  
Then happy is the man whose coal  
Is safely in the bin.

“On second thoughts, when from the pole  
Come blasts that chill us through,  
Then happy is the man whose coal  
Is in and paid for, too.”

Not infrequently Mr. Jackson uttered a wise maxim in the midst of his jokes, as: “The man who always says what he thinks should think well what he says.” Again, “The man who knows that he doesn’t know everything, knows something.” So said Socrates.

Mr. Jackson contributed to the Boston Courier, the Boston Commercial Bulletin, the New York Independent, and the Atlantic Monthly. He wrote many songs, and was the author of a popular opera-cantata, called “The Cranberry Pickers.” He died December 9, 1898, aged fifty-eight years.

As a means of preparing for an easy transition a little later from the men to the women writers of Somerville, let us speak of the Munroe family. Edwin Munroe, of Scotch descent, married Eliza (?) Fowle, of Lexington. Three children of these parents, a brother and two sisters, have intimate relation with the literary history of Somerville. These are Edwin Munroe, who married Nancy Thorning, Eliza Ann Munroe, who married Rev. Henry Bacon, and Martha Fowle Munroe, who married Rev. El-



bridge Gerry Brooks. The son of the last-named marriage is known to all residents of Somerville, and to many throughout the land.

In industry and consequent fruitfulness, it is not too much to say that Elbridge Streeter Brooks is the leading writer among those who, in life and death, have been identified with the city of Somerville. He has written biography, fiction, and history, to the number of more than forty volumes. His first book was a biography of Rev. Elbridge Gerry Brooks, dedicated to the author's mother,—“whose loyal and loving aid made more effective the life-work of my father.” Many of the volumes by Mr. Brooks have attained a wide popularity, and so have met his cherished wish, that his works in the public library might show, in their well-worn binding, the sign that they had been often and vigorously handled. The kind of writing in which Mr. Brooks excels is a mingling of historic fact with playful imagination. Take, for example, “The Century Book of Famous Americans,” of which the Somerville library owns four copies, all bearing the marks of use. What could be more fascinating to the young people, for whom primarily this book was written, than to be transported from Boston to Quincy and Plymouth, from New York to Philadelphia, then to Virginia and Kentucky, thence hurried to the early homes of Lincoln and of Grant, regaled all along the way with bits of story about the men who have made these places famous? Here is no dull guide-book or chart of dates and battles, but a lively conversation among an uncle and the five boys and girls he is piloting,—talk rendered vivid and readable by the running question and commentary of these young Americans, in the vital and unstudied language of the present day. No wonder the book is issued under the auspices of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. No wonder twenty thousand copies were sold in three months after publication. There surely is no easier, because no more interesting, way in which to become acquainted with the leading facts in our country's history.

Into the so-called fiction written by Mr. Brooks historic fact enters almost unawares, just as in books whose main interest is

historical there occurs a distinct imaginative element. One book, "Wood Cove Island," is a stirring story of a contest between two opposing factions, the good boys and girls on one side, and the bad boys on the other, to gain and keep possession of a small island, made worth fighting for by the presence of an old scow, altered into a feudal castle by rude carpentry and youthful imagination. On this fictional background appear Professor Longfellow of Harvard, as a summer visitor, and his friend Charles Sumner, both of whom advise the combatants, without interfering with them. Any boy should like this book. Again, read "Historic Girls," or "Historic Boys," if you would get a vivid series of true pictures of widely separated ages, with differing customs, but the same child-nature persisting through all. Or dip into "Storied Holidays" to find some scene of childhood, grave or gay, set in the festivities of Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, or Midsummer Eve.

Throughout the works of Mr. Brooks there is earnest effort to make the historic parts correct as to fact, and also as to accessories of costume, architecture, and language. There is danger, intrinsic in such undertaking, that the learning shall appear artificial and pedantic. But the author recognizes this hazard, and, while not "writing down" to his young readers, provides against it. It would be difficult to find a better blending of dry events and ever-living human nature than in some of his sketches. It is their truth to history that makes the writings of Mr. Brooks respected by older readers, who, as well as the young, are at the same time attracted and held by the play of a cheerful and unwaning fancy.

Another member of the Munroe household will introduce us to our women writers, the second main division of the subject. Mrs. E. A. Bacon-Lathrop came to Somerville from Lexington in childhood. She married a Universalist minister,—Rev. Henry Bacon,—who was the first editor of the Universalist and Ladies' Repository, in 1832. On his death in 1856, his wife at once took up the editorial work that her husband laid down, and from July, 1856, until July, 1860, she ably conducted the magazine along religious lines. On the publisher's desire to render the Re-

pository of greater secular interest, Mrs. Bacon resigned her editorship, although her occasional contributions to the magazine continued. The Repository contains many examples of verse from the pen of Mrs. Bacon, and a few examples of her prose. We may perhaps best say that the Repository itself is the monument of her labors. But through life her pen was busy. As a child, she made experiments in composition. When her husband died, Mrs. Bacon published an extended "Memoir" of him; also she contributed to *The Rose of Sharon*, an annual, in the fashion of those days, with miscellaneous contents and steel engravings. Her letters, written from abroad in 1867, are described as very entertaining. A little book, called "Only a Keepsake," privately printed during her life, contains some of her poems. Here are a few lines about April:—

"Life! life! 't is singing in the rills  
And piping in the meadows,  
'T is bursting from the gray old trees  
That cast their ghostly shadows.  
The rose's stem is flushed with red,  
With green is streaked the willow,  
And green the little grasses shoot  
Where lay the snowy pillow."

And here are a few on a more intimate subject—her son, going to the war:—

"He stands before me tall and fair,  
The sunlight dancing on his hair,  
His stalwart arm to me he shows,  
His broad breast heaves with manly throes.

"Was it for this I gladdened so  
To see him up from boyhood grow?  
For this I read him many a tale  
Of brave old warriors clad in mail?"

This son, Henry, was wounded in the second battle of Bull Run, and, being discharged from the army, devoted himself to art abroad.

Mrs. Bacon was married to Rev. Thomas L. Lathrop, a Unitarian minister, in 1862. She died April 7, 1900, shortly after the death of her second husband. Those who knew her say that she was a gentlewoman of the old school, in the best sense of the term. A small oil painting by her son Henry shows her with refined and gentle face, her dark hair crowned with a small cap, sitting with hands quietly folded, as if in a habitual attitude of reverie.

[To be continued.]

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## THE MALLET FAMILY.

By Florence E. Carr.

THERE are many people in the United States to-day who bear the name of Mallet, and they are undoubtedly the descendants of those Mallets who were Huguenot refugees, and who came to this country at the time of the Revocation in France, or even earlier. They were of a rich and powerful family of Normandy in the early history of France, and were early interested in the Reformation. The title is still borne by the head of the family in France, viz., the Marquis Malet de Gravelle, and the name of Mallet is one still distinguished in France and America in art and science. Baird, the historian, says: "Charles, Duke of Orleans, third and favorite son of Francis I., of France, may have had sincere predilections for Protestantism. At least, it is barely possible that the very remarkable instructions given to his secretary, Antoine de Mallet, when, on the eighth of September, 1543, Charles sent him to the Elector of Saxony and the Landgrave of Hesse, Protestants, were something besides mere diplomatic intrigues to secure for his father's projects the support of these princes. Lefevre, a great Protestant, was Charles' tutor, and a friend of Mallet."

This Mallet must have been a skilled diplomat and an orator to have pleaded his cause before foreign rulers. Then there was Paul Henri Mallet, born in Geneva of refugee parents. He became famous for his writings on the history of Denmark and Sweden, at whose courts he lived for a time. History mentions



many more of these Mallets of whom we have not the space to tell.

That the Mallets were early subjected to severe persecution because of their devotion to the cause is amply proved by various records, and while there is no actual proof that those who fled to this country were of the same family, there is every reason to believe that they were. The custom in those days of re-naming children for the elders of the family makes it difficult to trace a direct line, but it also goes to prove in this instance a kinship, since all of the Mallet emigrants to this country bear the same Christian names. There were several Mallets who fled to America about the same time and settled in different localities. We are told that David Mallet, who, with his five sons, held a position of prominence in the army of Louis XIV., fled to England, and died there in 1691. One son was broken on the wheel, another established himself as a physician in Yorkshire, Eng. A third went to Germany, and we hear of a David Mallet, of Rouen, and later hat manufacturer in Berlin in 1685, who was probably one of these five sons. The fourth son, John, came to America, bringing with him a brother and a nephew named Peter. This John was a ship carpenter, so tradition says, and probably escaped from Lyons, France. He was a man of considerable wealth, and succeeded in bringing some of it with him. He first came to North Carolina, and made several return voyages (probably secretly) to France. During one of his return trips his wife and child were lost at sea. He then married his servant, Johannah Larion, a woman said to be very beautiful; to them were born several children. This couple finally settled in Fairfield, Conn., and died at a ripe old age, leaving many descendants and much property. The sons and daughters of families in those days were more numerous than at the present time, and there is no doubt that some of this John's descendants remained in North Carolina, and finally settled in Virginia, since the name of Mallet is among those of the early settlers of Manakin, Va.

Charles Weiss, who was assisted in his work of compiling a history of Huguenots in France and America by a Charles Mallet, tells of the contraband trade established by the refugees, which



constituted a loss for France. They caused to be sent, by correspondents whom they had at Lyons and in the principal towns of Dauphiny, articles of daily consumption. In the space of two years the three brothers, Jean, Jacques, and Louis Mallet, thus succeeded in drawing from the kingdom manufactured articles to the value of more than a million livres.

Among the Huguenots who settled in Oxford, Mass., was Jean Mallet, in whom we of Somerville are more particularly interested. Bolbee, France, in the province of Normandy, was believed to be the home of this man. He sailed from England together with thirty families in 1685 or '86. Gabriel Bernon, a man of considerable wealth and a Huguenot of some notability, was the original owner of some 25,000 acres in what is now a part of the town of Oxford, having received a grant of the same by purchase from Governor Dudley. This little company first landed at Fort Hill, Boston, and were cared for by friends, and probably Jean and his children were received by relatives, as there were then Mallets living in Boston. And just here I would like to say that I believe this Jean to have been a brother of the David before mentioned, who fled to England. This little company of Huguenots, among whom we find the names of Faneuil, Bowdoin, Sigourney, etc., which have since become so familiar in the history of old Boston, proceeded to Oxford and established a settlement which bid fair to become a flourishing, prosperous town. After a few years, however, the Indians, who had been represented as peaceful, became troublesome, and at length a massacre took place. There was also some trouble over the title deeds, which never became straightened, and the families, becoming disheartened, finally returned, some to Boston and others to New Rochelle, N. Y. Traces of these French homes are still to be seen in the town of Oxford, but, unfortunately, the church records of that time are lost. The descendants of Gabriel Bernon, however, still have many papers relating to that time, and in the list appended to one of those papers we find the name of Jean Mallet, Ancien or Elder of the church. Jean Mallet returned to Boston in 1696, and probably practiced his trade of shipwright. He had at this time six children, all of whom were grown and had

escaped with him from France. There is no record of the mother of these children, and doubtless she died either in France or soon after reaching America. In 1702 we find that Jean purchased ten acres of land in Somerville of Jonathan Fosket, and proceeded to erect the old mill now known as the Powder House.

It is commonly believed that at this time occurred the marriage of Jean Mallet and Jane Lyrion, and that she died, and in 1712 he married Ann Mico. This I believe to be a mistake. Old Jean was then about sixty years old, and had evidently seen many hardships in life. Everything points to the fact that he built the mill to establish his two sons, Andrew and Louis, in business, they having been brought up as millers. His son John, evidently the eldest, and whom he mentions in his will as having started in life, I believe to have been that John who was a shop-keeper in Boston, and whose will was probated in Boston in 1741, and that he is the John who married Jane Lyrion, Ann Mico, and later Elizabeth Makerwhit, who survived him.

I have mentioned a John Mallet who married Johannah Larion in Fairfield, Conn. This Johannah Larion had a brother Louis, who was a refugee and settled in Milford, Conn. He became very wealthy, and, dying at a good old age, left a generous bequest to the French church in Boston, and also to the one at New Rochelle, N. Y. I believe Jane Lyrion, who married John Mallet, of Boston, to have been a younger sister of Louis and Johannah, and that her husband was a cousin of the Fairfield Mallet.

A homestead was built near the old mill, and old Jean probably removed here with his son Andrew and daughters Mary and Elizabeth. His son Matthew (who is also mentioned as being of Stratford, Conn., thus further proving kinship with the Connecticut branch) married at Cambridge in 1703 Abigail Linn. For some time they lived at the old mill, the family still retaining their interest in the French church in Boston, of which Jean still served as elder. This church was held in the Latin schoolhouse situated on School street, on the site now covered by a portion of King's Chapel, and down to the statue of Franklin in front of the city hall. Here the French Protestants worshipped for about thirty

years, when they were allowed to build a church of their own on the site now occupied by the School-street savings bank.

In 1709 occurred a break in the family at the old mill, and daughter Mary married Daniel Blodget, of Woburn. About this time son Louis removed to Somerville and married Margaret Fosdick. Louis seems to have alternated between Somerville and Boston, sometimes living in one town, and then in the other. In 1715 son Andrew married Martha Morris, of Cambridge, and brought his bride home to the old mill, and finally Elizabeth, the last of the flock, was married in the old French church, in 1719, to Daniel Vieaux.

In 1720 old Jean made his will, leaving legacies to his daughters and to his sons John and Matthew, and to his sons Andrew and Louis the homestead and the now famous mill. Two years after he died, at the age of seventy-eight years, and is buried in the old cemetery at Charlestown. Louis soon sold his share of the homestead and mill to Andrew, who continued to live on the estate until his death in 1743. It is this son of old Jean who numbers the most numerous descendants of the Charlestown Mallets. His children, numbering eight, all grew up and married, as follows: Andrew married twice, and died before his father. John married Martha Wilson, and removed to Topsham, Me., where his descendants still live, some of whom bore a noble part in the Revolutionary War. Martha married Shadrach Ireland. Elizabeth married Ephraim Mallet, probably her cousin. Michael married Martha Robinson. To him was left the bulk of his father's property, subject to a life interest held by his mother. In 1747 he sold the old mill to William Foye, treasurer of the Bay State Colony, and here was stored the powder belonging to the colony. Michael was guardian for his young brother Isaac and his sisters Mary and Phoebe, minor children at the time of their father's death. Isaac in after years became very wealthy, and owned considerable land in Charlestown. He was a blacksmith and schoolmaster at the Neck, selectman, etc. A great deal of his property was destroyed at the burning of Charlestown during the battle of Bunker Hill, and he claimed damages to the amount of \$3,200, which, of course, he never received. The sons



of Ephraim and Elizabeth Mallet served faithfully in the Revolution, and we find Ephraim Mallet, aged eighteen years, among the little garrison on Prospect Hill. Afterward he re-enlisted at Fishkill, N. Y., and there are various records of his service in the archives of the State House in Boston.

The name of Mallet, once so common in this locality, is now extinct, and all that remains to mark the record of their lives are a few old gravestones in the ancient cemetery at Charlestown, and various wills and deeds in the Registry offices of Middlesex county. Much of story and romance is hidden between the lines of these old records, and in imagination one can call up vivid pictures of life in the old colonial days while poring over these old papers.

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## CHARLESTOWN SCHOOL IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

By Frank Mortimer Hawes.

**I**N presenting this account of the first school of Charlestown, we trust that the time given to musty old records has not been spent unprofitably. If the story awaken in the reader's mind an interest commensurate with that which held us to the task, our labors will be amply rewarded.

Although settled a year or more previous, Charlestown was incorporated—to use the date in our Court Manual—August 23, 1630. The bounds of the town had no definite limits, but we learn that, March 3, 1636, they extended “eight miles into the country, from the meeting house.” In September, 1642, a part of Charlestown was set off and incorporated as the town of Woburn, and May 2, 1649, the indefinitely designated “Mistick Side” became the town of Malden. The territory that remained extended as far as the bounds of Reading, and included (not to mention more remote districts) besides “the peninsula,” a large part of Medford, portions of Cambridge and Arlington, and the whole of Somerville. This was, practically, the Charlestown of the seventeenth and a part of the eighteenth century, as there was no further diminution of territory until 1725, when Stoneham was made a township.

Our story begins, as far as the records are concerned, June 3, 1636, when "Mr. William Witherell was agreed with to keepe a schoole for a twelve month, to begin the 8 of the VI. month, & to have £40 for this yeare."

Frothingham, in his History (page 65), makes this comment: "This simple record is evidence of one of the most honorable facts of the time, namely, that a public school, and, judging from the salary, a free school, at least for this twelve-month, was thus early established here, and on the principle of voluntary taxation. It may be worth while to remember that this date is eleven years prior to the so often quoted law of Massachusetts, compelling towns to maintain schools."

A brief word on this first-named school teacher of Charlestown will not be amiss. Rev. William Witherell (the name admits of various spellings) came from Maidstone, Kent, Eng., in 1635, under certificate from the mayor of that place, where he had been schoolmaster. He was bred at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, took his degree of A. B. in 1623, and his master's degree in 1626. In the ship "Hercules," which sailed from Sandwich, there came with Mr. Witherell his wife, three children, and a servant. Savage adds that, after preaching in Duxbury, he became the minister of the second parish of Scituate in 1645, that several children were born to him in this country, and that he died April 9, 1684. A recent genealogical note in the Boston Evening Transcript gives his age as twenty-five in 1627, when he married in Canterbury, Eng., Mary Fisher. That he was for several years the schoolmaster of Charlestown appears from the following:—

"11: 12 mo. 1636. Mr. Wetherell was granted a House plott with his cellar, selling his other house and part of his ground."

"12: 12 mo. 1637. About Mr. Wetherell it was referred to Mr. Greene and Mr. Lerner to settle his wages for the Yeare past in pt and pt to come & they chose Mr. Ralph Sprague for a third."

"28: X mo. 1638. John Stratton was admitted a townsman & has liberty to buy Mr. Wetherell's house."



1641. Mr. Wethrall's name appears in a list of those to whom an assignment of "lots" was made.

In a general town meeting, 20: 11 mo. 1646, "it was agreed yt a Rate of £15 should be gathered of the Towne toward the Schole for this Yeare & the £5 yt Major Sedgwick is to pay this Year (for the Island) for the Schole, also the Towns pt of Mistick Ware for the Schole forever." Thus early we have mention of an income derived from rentals, bequests, etc., which were to grow into a very respectable school fund. From time to time we shall have occasion to refer to this.

As far as we can now determine, the first mention of a schoolhouse was at a town meeting, held 1: 11 mo. 1648 (or, new style, January 11, 1649), when it was agreed that the seven selectmen should see about and order "a fitt place for a Schole house and it to bee sett up and built at the Towns Charge." The following month it was voted "to lay out for the Towne use upon the Windmill Hill a place for a Schole house and a place for the Scholmaisters house, and Mr. Francis Willoughby & Mr. Robert Hale were desired to lay them out."

"1: 3 mo. 1650. It was agree by all ye Inhabitants of the Towne that the Towne would allow unto a Scholmaister (to be agreed with by the officers) by a rate made to that end to make up the rent for Lovell's Island £20 by the year, besides the Schollers pay. Agreed that a Schole house and a Watch Tower be erected on Windmill Hill & to be paid by a general rate & that Mr. Francis Willoughby, Mr. Ralph Mowsall, Mr. William Stilson & Mr. Robert Hale are chosen to agree with a convenient number of Carpenters that the work be carried on as speedily & frugally as may be."

"3: X mo. 1651. The rate of the Towne gathered by the two constables Swett and Lowden of £53 about the Scholhouse & meeting house is brought in & the most of it disbursed to workmen as appears by accounts."

Frothingham (page 5) makes the comment that the church and the schoolhouse stood side by side quietly diffusing their beneficent influences. The poet Whittier, in the closing stanza of "Our State," expresses a similar idea:—

“Nor heeds the sceptic’s puny hands,  
While near her school the church-spire stands;  
Nor fears the blinded bigot’s rule,  
While near her church-spire stands the school.”

It would seem that a procrastinating spirit, in the matter of providing school buildings, early displayed itself in this community. The demand was an urgent one. The selectmen are given full power to choose a site and erect the structure. A month later two influential citizens are selected to help the Fathers of the town in their arduous task. More than a year passes, and nothing has been done. The citizen committee is doubled, and the instructions, amounting almost to a command, urge that the work be done “speedily.” A year and a half from this time, or three years lacking a month from its inception, the house is completed and the bills are paid.

As the sum mentioned (£53) included repairs on the meeting house, probably we never shall know the exact cost of Charlestown’s first school building.

Before we leave this subject, let us look at the picture that is presented from another point of view. Two hundred and fifty years ago that one little Forge gleamed feebly down by Charlestown City square. The appliances, how crude! But the sparks struck from that rude anvil in the wilderness, struck in the white heat of conviction, have flashed and flown till every hill has been illumined with the brightness and every valley has become a shining track. Huge workshops, in brick and stone, have risen on every hand, but not enough to meet the demand, and the hundreds of anvils ringing, ever ringing, resound the larger life, the larger hope—and the forearm of the state is strengthened, ever strengthened. Listen to the ringing and the singing of the anvils as the sparks fly upward and the wise smith never tires!

The next schoolmaster of whom we have any mention was a Mr. Stow, who, 6: 3 mo. 1651, “is to have what is due to ye Towne from ye Ware and the £5 which the major (Sedgwick) pays for Pellock’s Island the last year 1650, also he is to regr. & take of such persons (as send there children now & then & not constantly) by the Weeke as he and they can agree.” This was

the Rev. Samuel Stow, a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1645. He was the son of John and Elizabeth (Biggs) Stow, of Roxbury, and was born about 1622. In 1649, at Chelmsford, he married Hope, daughter of William Fletcher. Of their seven children, a son, John, was born in Charlestown June 16, 1650. As early as 1653 he was the minister in Middletown, Ct., and March 22, 1670, he and his two brothers were enumerated among the fifty-two householders and proprietors of that place. In 1681 he seems to have been settled in Simsbury, Ct. Judge Sewall, in a letter dated November 16, 1705, writes that the Rev. Mr. Samuel Stow, of Middletown, went from thence to heaven upon the 8 May, 1704.

"30: 3 mo. 1657. A town rate, amounting to £100, for various purposes, includes an item of £7 'to Mr. Morley, Scholemaster'; said rate is to be made out and collected of the Inhabitants by the Constables." Frothingham (page 155), under date 1659, says that twenty acres in wood and three and one-half acres in commons were assigned to Mr. Morley. Wyman's History informs us that John Morley was the schoolmaster one year from April 26, 1652, and again also in 1657. He, with his wife Constant (Starr), was admitted to the Charlestown church in 1658. He is said to have been the son of Ralph Morley, of Braintree. His mother may have been the widow Catharine Morley "who sojourned thirty weeks with John Greene, of Charlestown, at two shillings and sixpence per week." John Morley died January 24, 1660-1, and in his will bequeathed his estate at Lucas and at Chesthunt Leyes, Hertford county, Eng., first to his wife, and secondly to his sister, Mrs. Ann Farmer. The will of the wife was probated in 1669.

In 1660 one thousand acres of land, in the wilderness, on the western side of Merrimack river, at a place commonly called by the Indians Sodegonock, were laid out by order of the General Court of Massachusetts Colony, for the use of the town of Charlestown. The rental of this tract of land helped to defray the annual expenses of the school.

November 26, 1661, Mr. Ezekiel Cheever entered upon his labors in behalf of the Charlestown grammar school. This

worthy pedagogue of ye olden time later won a deserved reputation as head master of the Boston Latin School, which position he accepted immediately on leaving Charlestown, January 6, 1671. Mr. Cheever was born in London January 25, 1614. He attended the famous Christ's Hospital School in 1626, and entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1632-3. He came to this country in 1637, was teaching in New Haven in 1638, and in Ipswich from 1650 to the time of his appointment to Charlestown, where his salary was £30 per annum. An increase in salary seems to have been the cause of his going to Boston, for there he received twice that amount. Mr. Cheever died in Boston August 21, 1708, at the advanced age of ninety-four. His connection with the Latin School continued thirty-seven years, and his labors as an instructor of youth covered nearly twice that period. Judge Sewall, in his diary, writes: "August 23, 1708, Mr. Cheever was buried from the schoolhouse." Dr. Cotton Mather preached the funeral sermon, which was printed and re-printed. His body was consigned to the Granary Burial Ground. The book with which Cheever's name, as a writer, is associated is "The Accidence." It was probably written while he lived in New Haven. "It passed through no less than eighteen editions previous to the Revolution, and was used generally as an elementary work. It has done more to inspire young minds with a love of the Latin language than any other work of the kind since the first settlement of the country." Mr. Cheever was twice married, the second time, while living in Ipswich, to Ellen Lathrop (November 18, 1651). When a resident of Charlestown, according to Wyman, his daughter Elizabeth married (1666) S. Goldthwait. There were other children, and his descendants at the present time would be hard to enumerate.

There are not many references to Ezekiel Cheever on the Charlestown records; most of them relate to the payment of his salary, which seems to have been furnished in small amounts, according to the condition of the town treasury. For example: "December 30, 1664. Paid to Mr. Ezekiel Cheever by order fifty shillings in current pay in full payment."

The following reference to the school was during his admin-



istration: "16: 12 mo. 1662. Mr. Thomas Gould and Mr. Solomon Phipps were appointed to run out the lines and bounds of a farm formerly laid out by Court order to maintain Charlestown Schoolhouse."

"17: 12 mo. 1661. It was ordered that Mr. Solomon Phipps should furnish the schoolhouse with severall necessities belonging to the same, and with a house or barn for the housing of the cowes and hay . . . so as the said Solomon and Mr. Cheffer the school-master shall see fitt & of necessity to be done & that the said Solomon shall be paid for his work according to the true value thereof."

12: 11 mo. 1665 (church record). Reference is made to Mr. Cheever's scholars who are required to "sit orderly and constantly in the pews appointed for them together."

"December 19, 1669. Appeared before the selectmen Mr. Cheever desiring a piece of ground or house plott might be granted him whereon to build a house for his family."

Finally, and most interesting of all these entries, November 3, 1666, Mr. Cheever presented the following petition to the selectmen (quoted by Frothingham, page 157):—

1. That they would take care the schoolhouse be speedily amended, because it is much out of repair.

2. That they would take care that his yearly salary be paid, the constables being much behind with him.

3. Putting them in mind of their promise at his first coming to town, viz., that no other schoolmaster should be suffered, or set up in the town so as he could teach the same, yet now Mr. Mansfield is suffered to teach and take away his pupils.

This complaint of good Master Cheever would seem to be proof positive that the chief source of his income was not from the town treasury, but from the pockets of his patrons. We like to think that at this early day there may have been an ambitious boy or two, fired by the zeal of this worthy pedagogue, who sturdily trudged twice a day across the Neck, from some newly-cleared farm in Somerville, to the little schoolhouse on Town Hill.

[To be continued.]



## REPORT OF NECROLOGY COMMITTEE.

Somerville, April 6, 1903.

The society mourns the loss of four members by death during the past year: Mrs. Martha Perry Lowe, Martin L. Carr, Mrs. Ernest L. Loring, and Christopher E. Rymes.

A tribute has already been paid to the memory of Mrs. Lowe and Mr. Carr.

Mrs. Loring died February 8, 1903. She had been a member of the society four years.

Mr. Rymes died March 11, 1903. He had been prominently identified with the affairs of this city and with many of its social and benevolent organizations during a long period, serving as a member of both branches of the city government, and for many years as a member of the board of trustees of the Somerville Public Library, and a most valued member and president of the Somerville Water Board. In 1875 he represented this district in the Massachusetts Senate. He was a man of sterling integrity, and conscientious in the discharge of every public duty.

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## WILLIAM AND GEORGE W. AYERS.

By Captain Martin Binney.

WILLIAM AYERS, of Somerville, was the eldest son of John and Sally (Page) Ayers, of Boston, Mass. Sally Ayers, his mother, subsequently married Joshua Bailey, who died before the war. Mrs. Bailey built the first house on Prescott street, Somerville, near Highland avenue. Her two sons, William and George W. Ayers, both enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War. William, the subject of this sketch, enlisted in the Somerville company, B, Fifth Regiment, in its "100-day services." He was a faithful soldier until he was sunstruck at or near Little Washington Village, N. C. He was in several engagements and toilsome marches with his regiment, and was a "non compos mentis" for many years, and committed suicide in

1892 by hanging. William Ayers was a United States pensioner at \$50 per month for several years before his death. He was a single man, never married.

George W. Ayers was the second son of John Ayers and Sally (Page) Ayers, of Boston. They had three children, Sallie D. Ayers, the eldest, who married Captain Martin Binney, the writer of this sketch, William Ayers, and George W. Ayers. Their two sons were both in the service during the Civil War. George W. Ayers enlisted for Somerville in Company D, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. He was in several battles in the Army of the Potomac, and was at one time in Fernandina, Fla., and, being a cabinet-maker, he was detailed to make coffins.

In one of the battles in which the regiment was engaged, George W. Ayers was taken prisoner, and was at Macon, Ga., and at Andersonville, where he suffered all the horrors of that prison pen. He was finally exchanged. The prisoners of war in this first exchange of prisoners were in a horrible condition, emaciated and starved. George W. Ayers died from starvation three days after his arrival at the Naval Academy grounds, Annapolis, Md., in 1863. The writer obtained leave of absence, and went to Camp Parole for the purpose of getting him a furlough, but found him dead. The bodies of George W. Ayers and William Ayers are in one grave, and a beautiful stone was erected to their memory by their sister, Sallie (Ayers) Binney.

# Officers of Somerville Historical Society.

1903-1904.

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First Vice-President,	Luther B. Pillsbury.
Second Vice-President,	Levi L. Hawes.
Third Vice-President,	Oliver Bacon.
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## Council-at-Large.

Charles D. Elliot,	L. Roger Wentworth,	Anna P. Vinal.
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John F. Ayer, Chairman,	Charles D. Elliot.
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DAVID LEE MAULSBY.



# HISTORIC LEAVES

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## LITERARY MEN AND WOMEN OF SOMERVILLE.

By David Lee Maulsby.

(Continued.)

ASSOCIATED with Mrs. Bacon in the editorship of the Ladies' Repository was Nancy Thorning Munroe, who had indeed begun to contribute to its pages at the age of sixteen. She served as one of the two assistant editors during the term of her sister-in-law's leadership. Mrs. Munroe also contributed to the Rose of Sharon. One of her contributions (1856) has peculiar local interest, since it relates to the people who lived on Prospect Hill near her residence. The yellow house with high steps on Walnut street, fronting Aldersey—a house built by her husband—is where Mrs. Munroe lived for many years. In "Our Model Neighborhood," after discussing what makes good and bad neighbors, the author says of her own environment: "And now, when I would fain describe it, my heart begins to falter. It is not large, though not from any spirit of exclusiveness, be it understood. It is peculiar in many things, and one is this: the children in this model neighborhood never have any trouble. And as the children play together without any trouble, so the parents and older members of the neighborhood live peaceably and quietly. They all have kindly feelings toward each other. If one has good fortune, others rejoice with him and congratulate him. They are like members of one large family; they are so nearly connected that what is a joy to one must be a joy to another, and what is grief to one must be grief to all." Some interesting prose and verse appears from Mrs. Munroe's pen in the

Juvenile Annual called *The Rainbow*, published 1850. One of these contributions is a story about "The Old Pound" of Somerville, a place where stray animals were locked up until redeemed by the owners. Toward the latter part of her life, Mrs. Munroe kept a greenhouse, and used her flowers as suggestions for dialogues of animated nature, called "Talks in My Home."

Mrs. Munroe is described as a brunette of vivacious manner. When she entered a company, she displayed cheerfulness and smiles. Her sense of humor is revealed in an incident connected with the early history of Tufts College. President Ballou, in need of a set of Scott for the college library, sent a humorous rhymed epistle to Mrs. Munroe, who, after gaining the co-operation of the women of the Cross-street Universalist Church, sent him the books desired, accompanied by a rhymed humorous reply.

The first canto of this reply, which is in metre an imitation of Scott's "Marmion," describes the receipt of the president's request, and the anxiety resulting therefrom:—

"A curse within our college walls,  
A voice from Walnut Hill here calls,  
Sir Walter is not there!  
And all the great, the good, the true,  
Whose names are known the wide earth thro',  
Are up in arms; their fearful ire  
Doth shake the walls with curses dire,  
And poison all the air."

After the favorable response of her co-workers,

"Calm was the matron's sleep that night,  
Hushed were her fears, her bosom light,  
And, as she slept, a vision bright  
Filled all the ambient air."

The vision presented Sir Walter with his train of characters, in varied picturesqueness, filing upon College Hill, where they were reviewed by the now satisfied "Dominie."

Mrs. Munroe was born in what is now Somerville, married a Somerville man, who, with her, was active in founding the Cross-street Church, and died at her home on Walnut street in 1883, aged sixty-three years.

The *Rose of Sharon* of 1856, containing the prose just quoted, was edited by Mrs. Caroline M. Sawyer. Mrs. Sawyer was a resident of Somerville from 1869 until her death in 1894. During this period she lived at Tufts College, where her husband, Dr. T. J. Sawyer, was connected with the Divinity School—from 1882 as its dean. An interesting genealogical fact is that, five generations back, one Thomas Foxcroft had two sons, who married, respectively, two daughters of John Coney, a goldsmith of Boston, and the man who taught Paul Revere his trade. From one of these marriages descended Phillips Brooks; from the other, Caroline M. Fisher, who became Mrs. Sawyer.

During her long life Mrs. Sawyer was busy in literary activity, contributing prose and verse to the secular and the religious press, and editing in turn the youth's department of the *Christian Messenger*, the *Rose of Sharon*, and the *Ladies' Repository*, in the last office immediately succeeding Mrs. Bacon. In later years she translated Herder's "Leaves of Antiquity," and wrote many poems, some of which remain unpublished. A "Memoir of Mrs. Julia H. Scott" attests long friendship with a fellow worker.

The verse written by Mrs. Sawyer, not to speak of numerous poetical translations, comprises pieces of a personal character, and those more objective in their suggestion. To the latter class belongs a stanza written on the occasion of raising the Stars and Stripes on the Lincoln schoolhouse of Somerville. This may properly be quoted, in view of its local associations:—

"The Flag of our country, the Flag of the free,  
The fairest unfurled o'er the land or the sea,  
We give thy proud folds to the breeze, while we raise  
The cheer to thy glory, the song to thy praise,  
For we love thee and know that, wherever unfurled,  
The Stars and the Stripes are the hope of the world."

One of the best of Mrs. Sawyer's poems, of this same impersonal sort, is the stanza of fourteen lines that appears in some of its manuscript versions as "Milton Sleeping." It is said that the incident here described did actually occur to the great Puritan poet:—

"In a cool glade the Bard Divine lay sleeping;  
His young face beautiful with grace and power;  
When, through the bosky reach of leaf and flower,  
Came, with her maiden-guard, a fair dame weeping.  
Startled, she paused, drew near, her soft eyes keeping  
Fixed on the Bard's sweet face till, in her breast,  
Her young heart melted, and she knelt and prest  
A light kiss on his lips, he still a-sleeping.  
At this sight grave and startled looks went round  
Among the maids, as if they said, 'Can this,  
Our high-born lady, thus a stranger kiss?'  
But she rose proudly, with reply profound,  
'I did but greet a seraph who keeps wait,  
With song celestial, at a mortal gate.' "

It is hard to resist the impression that the poem called "A Love Song," although it is not manifestly personal, yet belongs to that pilgrimage of more than sixty years which the writer and her husband were privileged to make in company. One who saw her with him, going home from church, it might be, Sunday after Sunday, cannot shake off the impression of a long life journey, affectionately traveled together. The third stanza of the poem runs as follows:—

"I know there are sorrows and tears, love,  
There is night as well as day,  
But the sorrows will fade and the tears will dry,  
If Love's hand wipe them away.  
Then come and be mine, my darling,  
And whatever our future bring,  
Whatever the storm that may round us beat,  
In our hearts 't will be always Spring."



Of the poems manifestly personal, many deal with the losses of life. A religious note is heard in these. For example, the lost little children are remembered in "Doubting and Blessing":—

"I sit beside the window, gazing after  
The little feet  
That come and go, 'mid bursts of merry laughter,  
Along the street.

"But soon, along the winding highway dying,  
The voices pass;  
I hear, instead, the low wind faintly sighing  
Among the grass.

"So years ago—Oh, years how long and weary!  
Out from my day  
Others as young, as laughing, bright, and cheery,  
Vanished away.

"Alas! no children were they of the stranger—  
Like these, unknown;  
By life's supremest agony and danger  
They were my own!

"I gave them birth; my yearning heart kept saying,  
'Mid joyful tears,  
How they will love me, every pain repaying,  
In coming years.

"I fondly watched their growth in strength and beauty  
From day to day;  
I gently led them in the path of duty  
A little way;

"And then they left me!—did I say forever?  
O, untrue word!  
Will they not be mine own again, where never  
Farewells are heard?"

Again, the mother lingers, not altogether with pain, upon the memory of the daughter that left her at life's noon. Years afterward she writes:—

“My tryst was held beside your bed—

A radiant shawl of India's loom,  
That seemed to brighten all the room,  
A loving hand had o'er you spread;

“The sunset through the casement streamed,  
And lay upon your placid face,  
Still wearing all its living grace,  
And smile that almost living seemed,

“And children shyly came to fill  
Your hands with morning-glories fair,  
Low whispering, as they smoothed your hair,  
'Our dearest is so very still!’

“No strange, cold dread their bosoms knew  
To overawe the love which led  
Their little feet to climb your bed,  
That they might closer come to you!

“Dear scene! It lives before me yet!  
Alas for them whose memories keep  
Of their beloved when they sleep  
No picture they would ne'er forget!”

One other extract may be given, to show the essentially religious tendency of Mrs. Sawyer's mind. Toward the close of her life, the retrospect seemed to her to detect too little harvested in the fields of God. Yet will the reaper not despair.

“The night draws near, and I have not compassed  
The task by the Gracious Master set;  
Ever and ever by incompleteness  
My efforts all have been sore beset.

"The hands grew weary that fain had labored,  
Nor asked for rest till their stent was done,  
Till now, scarce heeded, their work is lying  
Unfinished at nearly the set of sun.

"The brain I trusted has lost its cunning,  
And when I look for its wonted aid,  
The answer comes in a voice unready,  
That leaves me doubting and sore afraid,

"I sought the field in the early morning,  
When life was gladsome and hope was high,  
And I said, 'I will work with a hand unwearied,  
And gather a harvest by and by.'

"But the days and the years in swift succession,  
While I was waiting, by me passed;  
And when I looked for a golden harvest,  
I found but a dreary waste at last!

"Maybe some gleanings may still be waiting  
For me to cull, ere Thy call shall come,  
So empty-handed I need not enter,  
Shame-faced and weeping, the gates of home!

"It will not be long,—the Messenger cometh;  
Step by step He is drawing near;  
I listen, and seem through the dusky gloaming  
Of the Land of Shadows a Voice to hear!

"When It calls my name, I will gladly follow,  
Nor fear in the darkness to lose my way;  
For Thou, O Master! wilt walk beside me,  
And lead me safely to endless day!"

An impression left after one has read much more than can here be quoted is that Mrs. Sawyer, in her most impressionable years, had felt, in connection with many others, that great wave of Romantic tendency that swept about the globe in the days of Byron and Wordsworth. Her poems, notably one called

“Viola,” show unmistakable traces of this tendency. Add to this her strong natural affections, and her faithful acceptance of the reality of what is unseen and eternal, and an outline of her poetic thought is indicated. As a wife and mother, she was in her rightful kingdom; as a Christian, despair was upheld by faith; as a writer, her home life and her spiritual experience combined in a natural expression of herself.

[To be continued.]

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## CHARLESTOWN SCHOOL IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

By Frank Mortimer Hawes.

(Continued.)

**M**R. BENJAMIN THOMPSON, who had been in charge of the Boston Latin School, for some reason was offered a secondary position in the same, and declined. He gracefully exchanged places with Mr. Cheever. January 30, 1671, the Charlestown records say: “Mr. Benjamin Thompson began to teach the schoole in this Towne.” The agreement between him and the selectmen reads as follows:—

1. That he shall be paid £30 per annum by the Towne and to receive 20 shillings a year from each particular scholar that he shall teach, to be paid him by those who send children to him to school.

2. That he shall prepare such youths as are capable of it for the college, with learning answerable.

3. That he shall teach to read, write & cypher.

4. That there shall be half a year's warning given mutually by him and the Town before any change or remove on either side.

The school was in Mr. Thompson's hands until November 7, 1674. It was during this time, May, 1672, that the Rev. Thomas Shepard, of Charlestown, in his election sermon, said: “Let the schools flourish; this is one of the means whereby we have been,



and may still be preserved from a wilde wilderness state through God's blessing upon the same, and from becoming a land of darkness and of the shadow of death. Cherish them therefore and the College in especial."

At this time, also, 17: 2 mo., 1673, "it was voted that the persons hereafter mentioned were appointed to look after ye boys and keep them in order in ye meeting house upon ye Sabbath & Lecture Days, 24 persons being ordered to set two for each month with them." The list included many of the solid men of the town, and a similar vote was passed for several years thereafter.

Mr. Thompson (Tompson) achieved no little distinction as a schoolmaster, physician, town clerk, and even as poet. He was the son of the Rev. William Thompson, and was born in Braintree July 14, 1642. He graduated from Harvard College in 1662, the second in his class, and was appointed to the master's place in the Boston school August 26, 1667. While teaching there, he had among his pupils the celebrated Cotton Mather, and thus "had the honor of helping forward that precocious youth, who, in burdensome gratitude, enlivens his 'Magnalia' by references to his old master's poetry."

After leaving Charlestown, we next find Mr. Thompson teaching in his native town, where he engaged March 3, 1678-9, at a salary of £30. The town is to give him a piece of land to put a house on, and every child is to carry to the schoolmaster one-half cord of wood, besides the quarter money every year. 1688, Mr. Benjamin Thompson, physician and schoolmaster, is mentioned on the Braintree records, and 1696 he is the town clerk of that place. He was keeping school in Roxbury from 1700 to 1704. Mr. Thompson was twice married, first, to Susanna Kirtland, of Lynn, secondly, to Prudence Payson. He died April 13, 1714, in his seventy-second year, leaving eight children and twenty-eight grandchildren. Of these, a daughter, Susanna, was born in Charlestown June 10, 1673. The birth of a daughter, Anna, February 21, 1676, is also assigned to Charlestown. If so, the family must have lived here after his services as schoolmaster had ended.

Benjamin Thompson has been styled by some the first native American poet. His versification was considered smooth and correct. Perhaps his most famous work was "New England's Crisis," a long poem on King Philip's War.

November 16, 1674. "Mr. Thompson, having resigned up his charge in this town as schoolmaster ye 7 instant, this day ye Selectmen, with the advice and consent of the Reverend Mr. Thomas Shepard and Rev. Mr. Joseph Brown, did unanimously agree to give Mr. Samuel Phipps, of this Towne, a call to the said work, who was accordingly sent for, & the matter being proposed, viz.: that he should accept of the sd service for half a year upon tryall. For which time he is to instruct Youth in Grammar Learning, & to fit such for ye College who are capable of it as farre as ye time will admit; that he shall also teach to read, write, & cypher. In consideration whereof he shall be allowed £30 per annum from ye Towne & 20 shillings per annum from each schollar taught by him, to be paid by their parents or guardians. All which was accepted by him ye next day, being ye 17 November, and upon the 18 he began to keep school. Attested by Laurence Hammond, Recorder."

A more extended account than has been accorded to his predecessors is due to Samuel Phipps, for without doubt he has the distinction of being the first native of Charlestown to teach in her schools. Then, too, as one of the pioneers in the work, he set the pace for that great army of young men who ever since have trained themselves for the battle of life by first showing the young idea how to shoot.

He was the son of Solomon Phipps, before mentioned, a prominent and useful citizen of that time. His name is the second on the list of those who graduated from Harvard College in 1671. Isaac Foster, also from Charlestown, stood first, and Samuel Sewall (a name distinguished in our Colonial history) came third. The rest of the class, eleven in number, were Samuel Mather, Samuel Danforth, Peter Thacher, William Adams, Thomas Weld, John Bowles, John Norton, and Edward Tylor. In 1680, a year after he entered upon his labors as school teacher, he had fifty-three pupils. His services on Town Hill continued until June, 1684.

Mr. Phipps was thrice married, but the mother of his eleven children appears to have been the second wife, Katherine, daughter of John Brackenbury. He always resided in Charlestown, and, to judge from the records, deserves to be ranked among her most famous citizens. It was here that he joined the church, March 9, 1684. He held all the offices in the gift of his fellow townsmen, serving as constable, town clerk or recorder, town treasurer, selectman, and representative to the General Court. This last distinction he enjoyed, in all, twelve years. He was Clerk of the Courts for Middlesex county from 1689 to 1722, and for a time was Register of Deeds for the same. He also served as captain of the militia. Mr. Phipps died August 7, 1725. His interest in the Charlestown school is evinced from various entries in the records, some of which we quote later on.

Taking up, in chronological order, the various references to the school during the Phipps regime, we learn somewhat of the school fund and of the disciplining of the schoolboys.

January 4, 1875. "Voted that Lotts forfeited to ye Towne be given to a free schoole in Charlestown forever." The same day it was "agreed that Lovell's Island should be & remain to the use of the school in Charlestown forever, and not to be alienated from it to any other use."

January 17, 1675-6. John Cutler, Jr., one of the constables, was thus instructed: "That you allow no boys to sit in any other place in ye meeting house but those appointed for therein, viz., the boys' seats in ye long benches in ye southwest alley, and therefore that you fetch them out of the galleries & from before the Pulpit or elsewhere, & place them in ye place above said.

"That you endeavor to prevent playing & all irrelevant carriage in time of Worship.

"That you prevent there unnecessary frequent running out of ye meeting house in time of exercises, & particularly there running out before prayer be done & ye Blessing pronounced, which is also a particular order from the General Court.

"That you permit them not to sit in time of prayer, but to stand up, & during the whole exercise there hats to be off.

"That you return a list of names of such boys as will not be

reclaimed from there disorders by you, that they may be proceeded with as ye law in yt case directs."

Frothingham, against the year 1679, says: "The ministers complained in their sermons of the general decay of schools, and an effort was made to restore them." This may explain our next extract from the records.

March 10, 1678-9. "At a general meeting of the Inhabitants it was put to a voat to ye inhabitants of this Town whether they would make a free School in this Town by allowing £50 per annum in or as money & a convenient house for a schoolmaster who is to teach Lattin, writing, siphering, & to perfect children in reading English. It was passed with a general voat by ye holding up of their hands, as Attests James Russell, Recorder." The seventh of April following "it was agreed with Mr. Samuel Phips to keepe the Free Schole of this Towne on the terms as was voted at the Towne Meeting (in March), wch is for the Yeare ensuing wch yr begins the 14th of this Instant Aprill. Per John Newell, Recorder."

March 6, 1681-2. "It was agreed with Luke Perkins to inspect ye Youth at the meeting house in time of Worship for this yeare ensuing, for which he is to have £3 for this yeare, one-half money & the other halfe Towne pay, provided he be careful in his office." It thus appears that the fathers were tired of doing police duty on the Sabbath, and were glad to hire a substitute for about a shilling per week! Perhaps the most interesting item that the records furnish us at this time is the account of the building of a new school building, which, as far as we know, was the second schoolhouse erected in Charlestown.

30 March, 1681-2. "Then agreed with the brothers Nathaniel & Samuel Frothingham that they build a sufficient frame for a schoole of 20 ft. square & 8 foot studd within joints with a flatish Roofe and a Turret on it for the bell, and likewise a mantle-tree of 12 foot long, & to raise sd frame by 17th of May next, and to furnish all the carpenter worke about it by the middle of June next. And the Selectmen doth promise to finde them with boards, shingls, and nayls, and to pay them for sd worke thirteen pounds, one-half money. Attest Jno. Newell, Recorder."



Also agreed, April 26, 1682, with Xtopher Goodwin, Jun., "to doe the mason worke belonging to ye new schoolhouse, viz., to build ye Chimnie & underpin ye house, to fill the walls with clay & brick, and to point the roof with lime, he finding all materials belonging to it, as brick, stone, & Lime, etc., etc. Sd Goodwin is to have ye stone & brick of ye old house, & for so doing his worke substantially he is to receive five pounds, one-half money, the other Townes pay."

This new building, built in part, perhaps, from the material of the old, probably stood on or near the same spot as its predecessor, which had done service since 1651. Fifteen years after its erection, 1666, it was "much out of repair," but, thanks to Master Cheever's urging, it was made to do service sixteen years longer. Frothingham, page 185, makes a mistake when he says this new building was only twelve feet square, and "Somerville, Past and Present," has copied the error.

April 3, 1684. "Agreed with Michael Long to inspect the Youth on the Lord's Day & other times of Religious Worship for 25 shillings and 15 shillings in towne pay for one year." From this decrease in salary, may we infer that the duties were growing less arduous?

Mr. Phipps' successor was Mr. Samuel Myles (Miles) who, July 17, 1684, entered upon his labors as master "of the Free School of this Towne." The following contract is dated August 11 of that year:—

"Agreed with Mr. Samuel Miles, schoolmaster, to pay unto him £50 per annum for his faithful performing of that place. By Teaching & p'r'f'ing Youth that are committed to him, wh. sum is to be payd quarterly, the one-half in money, and the other in corn at money price. Likewise to allow him 5 pounds per year for house rent, to be payd in Towne pay, which agreement is to continue for one year."

December 6, 1686. "Mr. Samuel Phipps, as Town Treasurer, is empowered to lay out the 25 pounds money belonging to the Free School, Provided he take sufficient security therefor."

From Sibley's "Harvard Graduates" we learn that the Rev. Samuel Miles was the son of Rev. John Miles, a Baptist preacher,

who, in 1663, formed a society in Rehoboth, the oldest Baptist church in Massachusetts. He died in 1683, while his son Samuel, according to his will, was a student at the college. After graduating in 1687, young Miles continued to teach in Charlestown for a while, for it appears that the town was obliged to pay him his salary up to October of that year. About this time he became an Episcopalian, and we next find him connected with King's Chapel, Boston. In 1692 he visited England and brought away gifts for his chapel left by Queen Mary, then deceased, and also from King William. Some of these substantial evidences of royal favor are still treasured in Boston and elsewhere. In 1698 the wardens of King's Chapel, for the third time, apply to the Bishop of London for an assistant, and, in mentioning Mr. Miles, speak of him in most flattering terms as "well liked of all of us," and as "a good liver and a painful preacher." April 15, 1723, he laid the corner-stone "at ye new North Church." After a ministry of nearly forty years, he died March 4, 1728.

The receipt by which Samuel Myles, of Boston, in Co. of Suffolk, etc., Clerk, for and in consideration of £28 current money pd by Nath'l Dows, of Charlestown, treasurer of said town, doth remise, release, and forever quit claim unto said Town, etc., etc., the amount of its indebtedness to him "from the beginning of the world unto the present time," is a curious specimen of legal writing of that day. It was signed 27 March, 1699, and witnessed by Jno. Cutler and Thomas Parks.

We are not without evidence that the colonists of the stricter sort did not relish any return to Episcopacy. Was it Samuel Myles' influence that caused the May-pole to be set up in Charlestown? Frothingham, page 221, says, under date of May, 1687, "the May-pole was again cut down, and it was noised about that Samuel Phipps, one of the selectmen, led and encouraged the watch to cut it down."

During the Andros persecution Charlestown had its trials along with other communities. Mr. Phipps, too, for a while suffered from unpopularity. Much against his wish, he was appointed constable. August 9, 1686, he complained to the government of the town's action, and asked release from the fine, on

the ground that he was a master of arts and kept a grammar school. He was accordingly excused, but the town rebelled and again chose him to the office. It appears that his excuse was considered a thin one, for, said the people, "if the instruction of two or three youths in a private way in his house, as his other occasions will permit (for his private benefit) in grammar learning, at the desire of their friends, will give him the reputation of keeping a grammar school, so be it."

We have given this incident, not as a piece of historical gossip, but to show that the youth of Charlestown, as in Cheever's time, did not get their education wholly from the Town Hill school.

April 20, 1691. "Agreed with Mr. Jno. Emerson to be schoolmaster in this Towne for the education of Youth, viz., in Lattin, writing, ciphering, and perfecting in English, & for encouragement in sd work, the Selectmen promise the sd schoolmaster, Mr. Emerson, 25 pounds per annum, one-half money & the other half as money. And such Youth as do enter under sd schoolmaster his Tutorage, they are to pay as he and their parents or overseers do agree for, and as to some poor children that may come, as sd Mr. Emerson and the Selectmen may agree therein, and the above sd twenty-five pounds is to be payd quarterly from May the 4th following."

May 9, 1695. "Voted that what is rising annually upon the account of the school in this Town shall be payd annually to a schoolmaster, & no more towards keeping a gramer & writing school, and the sd schoolmaster to have the benefit of the scholars to make up his sallary, and the management thereof to be left to the selectmen."

December 7, 1696. "Then ordered the Town Treasurer to pay Mr. John Emerson, schoolmaster, besides the Rent of Lovels Iland, 8 pounds as he had Last Yeare."

November 2, 1697. "Then ordered Town Treasurer to pay for a bushel of Lime to reparaire the school house."

February 1, 1698. "To Xtopher Goodwin for work at the Schoolhouse, and to Mr. Emerson 8 pounds."

May 17, 1698. "Let unto Josiah Treadway the land for-

merly for the school fenced in and improved by the schoolmaster. It being all the land belonging to the Towne from the lower end of the schoolhouse on a straight line to Timothy Cutler's barn, containing 30 rod, more or less, for a term of seven years, 5 shilling for the first year, and 10 shilling per yeare thereafter."

January 6, 1698-9. "Xtopher Goodwin, for work at schoolhouse (4-6) four and sixpence."

January 23, 1698. Treasurer's account:—

Mr. John Emerson, Dr.

To Rent of Lovell's Is., £10.

To Money pd being for year 1697, £8.

To Rent for the Island, £10.

To money being rent for school land, £8.

Total, £36.

From the Emerson Genealogy we learn that Rev. John Emerson, of the class of 1675 (Harvard), was the son of Nathaniel<sup>2</sup> (Thomas<sup>1</sup>) Emerson. He was born in Ipswich, 1654, and died in Salem February 24, 1712. His grave is in the Charter street burying ground. He served as a chaplain in the Indian Wars, and taught school at Newbury, Charlestown, and Salem. August 25, 1699, the selectmen of Salem called him from Charlestown, at a salary of £50, to teach Greek, Latin, writing, cyphering, and to perfect such in reading as can read a chapter competently well. The following regulations at Salem were, doubtless, not unlike those in other communities at that day. The school bell was to be rung at 7 a. m. and 5 p. m. from March 1 to November 1, and at 8 a. m. and 4 p. m. from November 1 to March 1. School was to begin and end accordingly! Comment and comparisons with present-day methods are unnecessary.

Mr. Emerson married, in 1699, Sarah, widow of John Carter, and daughter of Richard and Joanna Stowers, of Charlestown. A daughter, Sarah, born to them August, 1695, married Hon. Richard Foster, Jr. (nephew of Isaac and grandson of William and Anne [Brackenbury] Foster). Through his wife, Mr. Emerson's name is connected with numerous real estate transactions in Charlestown. His widow long survived him.

March 4, 1699-00. "Voted that the selectmen, with Mr.



Samuel Phipps & Lt. Eleazer Phillips, be a committee to bargain and agree with a gramer schoolmaster for the yeare to keep a free school & the Selectmen to Raise by way of Rate on the Inhabitants what shall be wanting beside what is already given for that use to make up the sallery that shall be agreed upon to be given to sd schoolmaster."

March 8. "Agreed that Mr. Samuel Phipps & Lt. Eleazer Phillips go to Cambridge or elsewhere & inform themselves by the best advice they can get of a suitable person for a schoolmaster, & if they see meet to agree with one, this to be done with all expedition."

This unseemly haste is explained, perhaps, by a reference in Hutchinson Collection, page 553. Frothingham says, page 214, "So watchful were the public authorities of the common schools that in 1691 Charlestown was presented to the county court for its neglect, while it was in search of a competent teacher, and only saved itself from a penalty by a quick bargain."

May 22, 1700. "According to vote in March the selectmen and committee agreed with Mr. Thomas Swan to keep the school in this Towne, to teach children belonging to this towne Lattin, writeing, scifering, & to perfect them in Reading English, & forthwith to enter upon said work & continue for the space of one whole yeare from the day of the date hereof. In consideration of which service, faithfully performed, it was agreed that he be paid £40 money for the year, to be paid quarterly. Nathl Dowse, Recorder."

Various orders to the town treasurer to pay Mr. Swan are found upon the books, the most interesting being that of October 27, 1702: "To Mr. Thomas Swan 15 shillings money disbursed by him for wood for the schooling of pore children."

Thus ends the account of Charlestown school in the first century of our history. It remains to add that, at the opening of the eighteenth century (Frothingham, page 243), at annual meeting in March, it was voted, if there should be a county school settled by the General Court, that this Town would raise £40, in order to provide for it, if it be settled in this town. Apparently nothing ever came of this.

Neal's "New England," page 613, asserts that there was hardly a child of nine or ten years old throughout the whole country at this time but could read and write and say his catechism. If this be true, from the account which we have attempted to present, it may be judged whether Charlestown was faithful or not to its duty.

(To be continued.)

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## NEIGHBORHOOD SKETCH NO. 6. MEDFORD AND WALNUT STREETS.

By John. F. Ayer.

I N 1858 I located on Medford street. where Chester avenue and Medford Street unite; the house, since remodeled, is now owned by Mr. Sears Condit. It was a two-story, flat-roof structure, and connected with it there was a large lot of land, with several apple trees.

On the adjoining land, north, stood the Hearse house, also the Town Pound, both of which disappeared when the Brastow schoolhouse was built on the land—as did the schoolhouse itself a few years later, when the location was wanted for the Central fire station.

Chester avenue did not exist at that time, but it was opened a few years later, when the several houses that front toward the railroad were built.

There were three houses only on this portion of Barberry Lane, the one I occupied, the one owned and occupied by John W. Mandell next east of it, and a third one adjoining Mandell, owned and occupied by Charles Bird, Jr.

Mandell afterward located on Prescott street as a florist, while Bird drifted to Chelsea and became an auctioneer.

Northwest from us, along Medford street, there was no house until you came to Captain Brown's, near Central street. Opposite Brown, or a little further along, about where Ames street is, stood a small farmhouse and barn.

A little more to the north of Medford street stood the home of Charles E. Gilman on Walnut street, also an old house opposite his, both of which are still standing.

Mr. Gilman was about fifty years old at this time, and his farm of several acres extended northerly nearly to Gilman square, and southerly about the same distance, Gilman street being laid out through his land.

Gilman was a messenger, I think, in the New England Bank in Boston, going and returning over the Lowell railroad each morning and afternoon, attending to his duties as town clerk all the while.

Next along Walnut street northerly was William Veazie, whose house was in plain view from our windows. The first house he built was burned before completion, the second one—now standing—was guarded every night while being constructed. A supposed incendiary was shot one night by the watchman on duty.

In the rear of Veazie was a farm owned by Abraham M. Moore, whose buildings were in plain view; his land opened on to Walnut street, and also onto what is now Bonair street. There was a stone quarry on his premises, in the rear of Veazie, furnishing the familiar blue ledge stone for cellar walls so well known to all builders.

Along Walnut street, adjoining Moore, Edward Cutter—young Ned Cutter, as he was called—owned to Broadway; the house on Walnut street is still standing.

Cutter was a dissipated fellow, told big stories which few believed, was quite successful as a fruit-grower, however, and his extensive pear orchard will be long remembered by the older citizens of the town.

Opposite Cutter, on Walnut street, was the Skilton place. John, a bachelor, and very deaf, was for many years treasurer of the Warren Institution for Savings in Charlestown, and George, his brother, engaged in his first efforts at pickle and rhubarb wine making, occupied the house, which is still standing.

Next south of the Skiltons was a small farm of a Mrs. Moore, two or three acres, afterward owned by Samuel Mills, who opened

up the street of that name—the same that has recently been re-named Sargent avenue—into which it opened at right angles.

Fitch Cutter owned a tract of grass land to the south of the Mills estate, and on Walnut street there were no houses between Mills and Town Clerk Gilman, on the westerly side.

Directly northeast from our house, there were few, if any, houses between us and Broadway. Mr. Samuel D. Hadley, a music teacher (father of S. Henry Hadley), built a house on Everett avenue, the first one in that vicinity, about 1859 or 1860. Seemingly, he was away off in the pasture, for none of the streets, Otis, Auburn avenue, Bonair, Pearl, Flint, or Gilman, had been opened at this time. It was all grass or pasture land from Cross to Walnut to School street, and beyond to Sycamore. With the exception of the few mentioned on Walnut street, no buildings stood until you came to the Forster schoolhouse—a wooden structure on Sycamore street—but away to the right of it, along Broadway, could be seen the few houses which existed at that time. Marshall, Dartmouth, and Thurston streets were not in existence.

Looking still further toward the east across the fields to where Mt. Pleasant street and Perkins street are only a few houses could be seen; the John Runey house and the Pottery buildings on the northerly side of Cross street, about where Flint street is, the houses of Charles Williams, Horace Runey, a Mr. Appleton, and two or three others along that part of Cross street, and then no buildings till you reached the Galletly Rope Walk, the Towne residence and hot houses off Washington street, the Bailey and Guild houses on Perkins street, with possibly two or three others near by.

All between Perkins and Cross streets was pasture land, and one would let down the bars near Mt. Vernon street, on Perkins, and walk unmolested to a point opposite the Runey pottery, where, letting down another set of bars, he would find himself on Cross street. Clay pits were numerous along Oliver street, between Franklin street and Glen. Winter evenings we could see the bonfires lighted by the skaters, and hear their voices plainly.

Of the near-by neighbors, I recall Charles Munroe and James



S. Runey, who lived opposite us, Frank Russell, whose place adjoined the Munroe estate, forming the corner of Greenville street, and near by, on the opposite side of Greenville street, was the Alexander Wood place.

At the junction of Highland avenue and Medford street was the John Bolton homestead, and opposite Bolton, on Highland avenue, was the farm of Ira Thorp.

Mr. Munroe was prematurely old, had retired from business, and could be found generally about his place or along the street. He was a little lame, carried a stout cane, and moved about cautiously. He was a genial, sociable fellow, and his hearty greeting and loud laughter I recall with pleasure.

James S. Runey was with his brother John in the pottery business on Cross street. He was a quiet, kindly, home-loving man, it seemed to me; his widow, Mrs. Maria M. Runey, is still living in the Munroe house with her sister, Miss Louisa Munroe.

Frank Russell was a well-known resident; everybody knew him. Like his neighbor Munroe, he had retired from active business. He and Charles H. North had been in the pork packing business together for some years; he had been in the boot and shoe business, also.

He owned the triangle bounded by Chester avenue, Cross street, and Medford street, and property in other places, as well. His home partook of the well-to-do country type, and he is well remembered by the older people.

The place has gone out of the family, but remains much the same as in the early days.

Mr. Bolton occupied the premises bounded by Walnut street, Highland avenue, and Medford street, one of the best locations for a home in Somerville. He had a fine house, with ample grounds, was an engraver in Boston, a tall man, somewhat grey, intelligent, well-to-do. The land has been divided up and built over. The house has disappeared.

Ira Thorp, quite an old man, rather under size, thin and stooping, a good neighbor, was the typical milkman of the vicinity. He produced milk, and dispensed it to the neighbors straight. His house was at the corner of Walnut street and

Highland avenue. The barn was on the line of Walnut street, a great trough outside it, where the fresh milk in cans was placed to cool. He pastured his cows across the way from the barn, where they had ample range.

Both house and barn have long since disappeared, his holdings are now covered with residences, but he will be long remembered and often talked about by the old-time families in this locality.

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## WASHINGTON STREET AS IT WAS.

By Mrs. O. S. Knapp.

WASHINGTON street has always been a much-traveled thoroughfare, and was the first street laid out in the early settlement of the place. I will write briefly of the houses and their occupants as I remember them from Union square to Medford street on the northerly side of Washington.

Three houses have been moved, viz.: the house owned by the Stone family, that stood near the present site of the Stone building, was moved several years ago to make room for business purposes.

Both the Prospect Hill and Pope schoolhouses are located where dwelling-houses once stood. Mr. Bonner, who lived where the Prospect Hill schoolhouse now stands, moved his house up the hill on Bonner avenue. A family by the name of Harrington lived where the Pope schoolhouse is located.

Next below where we lived was the old Shedd place, known to Revolutionary fame, as a British soldier was killed in the house on the retreat from Lexington. I do not remember the name of the family who lived there in my childhood days. It was a pretty cottage, set well back from the street, surrounded by overgrown and untrained shrubbery, giving it a romantic and pleasing appearance. The place was sold some years since to Mr. Walker, who so enlarged and altered it that one could never recognize the original dwelling.

A few rods from the Shedd place Mrs. Frost lived. Her house stood near the street. A social-looking pump in front, with dipper attached, invited the thirsty traveler to stop for a cooling draught as he passed by. This house, also, has yielded to the pressure of business, the front of it having been built out for stores.

The substantial looking house now owned and occupied by George Haven, situated near the corner of Washington and Medford streets, has changed very little in its external appearance. My earliest recollections of the place are of a family by the name of Pritchard living there, but they did not remain very long.

The three remaining houses to be spoken of are clearer to my memory than any of the others. The house occupied by David Sanborn, father of David Sanborn who resides on Prospect street, stands near Union square. Adjoining this is the one then occupied by "Grandma" Bonner, sister of the elder Mrs. Sanborn, and mother of William Bonner, who moved his house up the hill.

In the third house, just east of the Prospect Hill school-house, my father, Joseph Clark, lived. These three houses are in possession of the original families, the descendants of two of them (Mrs. Bonner's and my father's) occupying them. Although the years have not passed by without leaving their marks on them, and the lovely, old-fashioned flower gardens belonging to them have long since gone, they wear a natural, old-time look, and stand as landmarks to those who were familiar with Somerville when it was set off from Charlestown.

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MIDDLESEX CANAL AND MEDFORD TURNPIKE, RUINS OF THE CONVENT IN THE DISTANCE.

# HISTORIC LEAVES

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE OLD MIDDLESEX CANAL.

By Herbert Pierce Yeaton.

### NAVIGATION ON THE MERRIMAC RIVER.

THE CANALS of the Merrimac River had their day and active existence in the first half of the last century.

They have been referred to as the earliest step towards a solution of the problem of cheap transportation between Boston and the northern country; but perhaps they may be more properly classed as the second step in that direction, the turnpikes having been in the field.

James Sullivan and his associates, the original projectors of the canal system, undoubtedly had in mind, not only to connect Boston with the Merrimac River country, but also to extend their canals from the Merrimac to the Connecticut River, and from the Connecticut River to Lake Champlain, and through its outlet to the St. Lawrence, thus bringing Boston into inland water communication with Montreal and the lower Canada.

The project was too vast, and the physical obstacles too formidable to admit of full consummation, and their labors resulted only in uniting by navigable water the capitals of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, covering a distance of about eighty-five miles.

The Middlesex Canal, twenty-seven miles long, from Boston to the Merrimac River at what is now known as Middlesex Village, about two miles above Lowell, was the first constructed. The work on this was commenced in 1794, and completed and opened for public use in 1803. Following the construction of the Middlesex Canal came the requisite work to render the

Merrimac River navigable; from the head of the canal to Concord, N. H., being a series of dams, locks, and short canals to overcome the natural rapids and falls of the river.

The first of these works was a lock and short canal at Wiscassee Falls, three miles above the head of the Middlesex Canal and what is now known as Tyngs Island. No fall is now perceptible at that point, the Lowell dam having flowed it out. The second work, fifteen miles further up, at Cromwell's Falls, consisted of a dam and single lock. Then came dams and single locks at Moor's, Coos', Goff's, Griffin's and Merrill's Falls. About a mile above Merrill's Falls were the lower locks of the Amoskeag, a canal next in importance to the Middlesex Canal. It was only about a mile in length, but surmounted by works of very considerable magnitude, where the great fall of between fifty and sixty feet now furnishes the water power for the mills at Manchester. The contract was first undertaken by Samuel Blodgett in 1794, and not completed until 1807.

Eight miles above Amoskeag the locks and short canal at Hooksett overcame a fall of some seventeen and one-half feet; further up the Bow locks and canal afforded the final lift of twenty-seven feet to the level of the navigable water of the Merrimac at Concord.

Short side canals with locks were subsequently built at the junction of the Nashua and Piscataquog Rivers with the Merrimac, to facilitate the passage of boats from the Merrimac to the storehouse in Nashua and Piscataquog villages.

For forty years this line of canals formed the principal channel of heavy transportation between the two capitals, and except that the canals did not effectually compete with the stages for carrying passengers, they held the same position to transportation as is now held by their successor and destroyer—the railroad.

During the entire season of open river, from the time that the spring break-up of ice permitted navigation to commence until the frosts of fall again closed it, this eighty-five miles of water was thronged with boats taking the products of the country to a market and the New England metropolis, and returning



loaded with salt, lime, cement, plaster, hardware, leather, liquors, iron, glass, grindstones, cordage, paints, oils and all the infinite variety of merchandise required by country merchants formerly classed under the general terms of "Dry West India goods."

The construction of these canals was a great undertaking in that day. Boston was a town of only about 20,000. Neither Lowell nor Manchester had been commenced, and Nashua was a small place without manufacturing, and Concord was a country village.

The Merrimac Canals were blotted out by the railroad. The opening of the Lowell road in 1835, to Nashua in 1838, and to Concord in 1842, were successive steps of destruction to the whole system of river navigation, and culminated in the total abandonment of the canal soon after the Concord railroad was put in operation.

A hardy race of boatmen, pilots, and raftsmen—men of uncommon strength and endurance, skilled in their calling, but unfamiliar with other labors—were suddenly thrown out of employment. The wooden dams and locks went to decay, the embankments were cut and plowed down, and successive spring freshets have hurled their icy batteries against the stone abutments and lock walls until they are nearly obliterated, and the next generation will not know of them.

#### THE MIDDLESEX CANAL.

The observant traveler on the Boston & Lowell Railroad, now the Southern Division of the Boston & Maine, between Woburn and Billerica, may see a broad ditch filled with a sluggish stream of water. He is told, perhaps, that this was once a portion of the Old Middlesex Canal; with the words come a swift vision of a silvery ribbon of water lying between cultivated meadows and bordered by velvety lawns and shaded woodland. On its bosom he sees the canal-boat, moving forward with easy, quiet dignity, appropriate to the time when leisure was still allowable. The vision is quickly dispelled by the rush and roar of the train sweeping on to its destination, as the canal itself was obliterated by the growth of steam power. It may, perhaps, help

to an appreciation of the vast changes which accompanied this transition if we will remember that, roughly speaking, the Middlesex Canal belongs to the first half of the nineteenth century, while the railroad belongs to the latter half of that period.

In the month of May, 1793, a certain number of gentlemen assembled for the purpose of "opening a canal from the waters of the Merrimac, by Concord River or in some other way, through the waters of Mystic River to the town of Boston." There were present at this meeting the Hon. James Sullivan, who was at this time attorney general, and later governor of Massachusetts, and in whose fertile mind the idea originated; Benjamin Hall, Willis Hall, Ebenezer Hall, Jonathan Porter, Loammi Baldwin, a leader in the enterprise and superintendent of construction, Ebenezer Hall, Jr., Andrew Hall, and Samuel Swan, Esq. After organizing by the choice of Benjamin Hall as chairman, and Samuel Swan, Esq., as clerk, the Hon. James Sullivan, Loammi Baldwin, and Captain Ebenezer Hall were chosen a committee to attend the General Court, in order to obtain an Act of Incorporation, with suitable powers relating to the premises. In conformity with this vote, a petition was presented to the General Court, and a charter obtained incorporating James Sullivan, Esq., and others, by the name of the Proprietors of the Middlesex Canal, bearing date June 22, 1793, and on the same day signed by His Excellency, John Hancock, Governor of the Commonwealth. By this charter the proprietors were authorized to lay assessments from time to time as might be required for the construction of said canal. It was further provided that the proprietors might hold real estate to the value of \$30,000 over the value of the canal; also to render Concord River boatable as far as Sudbury Causeway, through Billerica, Carlisle, Bedford, Concord, to Sudbury, a distance of twenty-three miles. This formed a portion of Mr. Sullivan's far-reaching plan for inland waterways, extending well into the interior of Massachusetts, and by way of the Merrimac River to Concord, New Hampshire, through Lake Sunapee to the Connecticut River, at Windsor, and thence to the St. Lawrence River. This seemed a good and practical plan, and if the railroad had been delayed

ten years, would undoubtedly have been realized; and further to extend the canal from Medford to Boston, the original intention to have the eastern limit at Medford. By an act of June 25, 1798, the proprietors were allowed to hold mill property.

At the first meeting of the proprietors, after the choice of James Sullivan as moderator, and Samuel Swan as clerk, the following votes were passed, viz.:—

That the Hon. James Sullivan, Hon. James Winthrop, and Christopher Gore, Esq., be a committee to arrange the business of the meeting, which they reported in the following order:—

Voted: That the business of the corporation be transacted by a committee annually elected, consisting of thirteen directors, who shall choose their President and Vice-President out of their own number.

Voted: That the Hon. James Sullivan, Loammi Baldwin, Esq., the Hon. Thomas Russell, Hon. James Winthrop, Christopher Gore, Esq., Joseph Barrell, Esq., Andrew Craigie, Esq., Hon. John Brooks, Captain Ebenezer Hall, Jonathan Porter, Esq., Ebenezer Storer, Esq., Caleb Swan, and Samuel Jaques be directors for pursuing the business of the canal for the present year.

At the meeting of the directors on October 11, the following vote was passed:—

Voted: That the Hon. James Sullivan be president, Loammi Baldwin, Esq., first vice-president, and Hon. John Brooks, second vice-president.

The Board of Directors being duly organized, the next duty was to commence the necessary surveys of the most eligible route between Medford River, Chelmsford, and the Concord River. Here the committee were met by an almost insurmountable difficulty; the science of Civil Engineering was almost unknown to anyone in this part of the country. They were, however, determined to persevere, and appointed Mr. Samuel Thompson, of Woburn, who began his work, and proceeded from Medford River, following up the river to Mystic Pond, through the pond and Symms' River to Horn Pond in Woburn, and through said pond to the head thereof.

Meeting here bars they could neither let down nor remove, they went back to Richardson's Mill on Symms' River, and passed up the valley through the east part of Woburn to Wilmington, and found an easy and very regular ascent until they reached the Concord River, a distance traveled, as the surveyor says, "From Medford Bridge to the Billerica Bridge, about twenty-three miles, and the ascent he found to be, from Medford River to the Concord River, sixty-eight and one-half feet." The actual elevation, when afterwards surveyed by a practical engineer, was found to be 104 feet. By the original survey from Billerica to Chelmsford, the surveyor says, "The water we estimate in the Merrimac River at sixteen and one-half feet above that at Billerica Bridge, and the distance six miles," when in fact the water at Billerica Bridge is about twenty-five feet above the Merrimac at Chelmsford. This report shows one of the many difficulties the directors had to contend with for the want of requisite scientific knowledge. It will be seen that the Concord was thus at the summit of the canal, and able to supply water in both directions. It will be seen later how this fact was further utilized in the attempt to form an aqueduct of the canal.

On the first day of March, 1794, the directors passed a vote appointing Loammi Baldwin, Esq., to repair to Philadelphia and endeavor to obtain the services of Mr. Samuel Weston, a distinguished English engineer, then in this country working in the Potomac canals. If he cannot come, then that he endeavor to obtain some other person who shall be recommended by Mr. Weston, and that said agent be authorized to write to Europe for some suitable person for the undertaking, if none can be found elsewhere.

Colonel Baldwin made a lengthy and able report on the twelfth day of May, 1794. Among other things, he says he has engaged Mr. Weston to make the survey of the route in the month of June, and closes his report as follows: "I consider the prospects before us in this undertaking much more flattering, in respect to the execution of the work in proportion to the extent, than any I have seen in the Southern states, the Washington canal excepted."



About the fifteenth of July Mr. Weston arrived, and a committee, consisting of Loammi Baldwin and Samuel Jaques, was appointed "to attend him during his survey and observations relating to the canal." The survey was completed, and a full report made by Mr. Weston on the second day of August, 1794. The survey made by Samuel Thompson was the one selected forty years later for the Boston & Lowell Railroad.

Agents were then immediately appointed to carry on the work, to commence at Billerica Mills on the Concord River, and first complete the level to the Merrimac at North Chelmsford. Colonel Baldwin, who superintended the construction of the canal, removed the first turf on the tenth of September, 1794. The season having so far advanced, but little could be done until the next spring except to purchase material and make contracts for future operations. The purchase of land from more than 100 proprietors demanded skillful diplomacy. Most of the lands acquired were by voluntary sale and conveyed in fee-simple to the corporation, sixteen lots were taken by authority of the Court of Sessions, while for thirteen others neither deed nor record could be found when the corporation came to an end. Some of the land was never paid for, as the owners refused to accept the sum awarded. The compensation for the land taken ranged from \$150 per acre, in Medford, to \$25 per acre in Billerica. The progress was slow and attended with many embarrassments, and was prosecuted with great caution from the commencement to the year 1803, at which time the canal was so far completed as to be navigable from the Merrimac to the Charles River, the first boat, however, being actually run over a portion of the canal on April 22, 1802.

Delays and great expense were incurred for many years, owing to imperfections in the banks and other parts of the work; and about the whole income was expended in additions, alterations, and repairs, and no dividend could be or was declared until February 1, 1819. From the year 1819 to the time the Boston & Lowell road went into operation, the receipts regularly increased, so that the dividends arose from \$10 to \$30 per share; and no doubt in a few years without competition they would

have given a handsome interest on the original cost. These were palmy days. In 1832 the canal people declared a dividend of \$22, and from 1834 to 1837, inclusive, a yearly dividend of \$30. The year the road went into operation, in 1835, the receipts of the canal were reduced one-third, and when the Nashua & Lowell road went into operation in 1838, they were reduced another third, and up to the year 1843 they were not sufficient to cover the expenditures for repairs and current expenses. The future had a gloomy prospect.

As the enterprise had the confidence of the business community, money for prosecuting the work had been procured with comparative ease. The stock was divided into 800 shares, and among the original holders appear the names of Ebenezer and Dudley Hall, Oliver Wendell, John Adams, of Quincy, Peter Brooks, of Medford, and Andrew Craigie, of Cambridge. The stock had steadily advanced from \$25 per share in the fall of 1794 to \$473 per share in 1803, the year after the canal was opened, and touching \$500 in 1804. Then a decline set in, a few dollars at a time, until 1816, when its market value was \$300 per share, with few takers, although the canal was in successful operation; and in 1814 the obstructions in the Merrimac River had been remedied so that canal boats locking into the river at Chelmsford had been poled up the stream as far as Concord, New Hampshire.

Firewood and lumber always formed a very considerable item in the business of the canal. The Navy Yard at Charlestown and the ship yards on the Mystic River for many years relied on the canal for the greater part of the timber used in ship-building, and work was sometimes seriously retarded by low water in the Merrimac, which interfered with transportation. The supply of oak and pine about Lake Winnepesaukee and along the Merrimac River and its tributaries was thought to be practically inexhaustible. In the opinion of Daniel Webster, the value of this timber had been increased \$5,000,000 by the canal. Granite from Tyngsboro and agricultural products from a great extent of fertile country found their way along this channel to Boston, while the return boats supplied taverns and country stores with their annual stock of goods.

Yet, valuable, useful, and productive as the canal had proved itself, it had lost the confidence of the public, and with a few exceptions of the proprietors themselves. The reason of this is easily shown. The general depression of business on account of the Embargo and War of 1812 had its effects on the canal. In the deaths of Governor Sullivan and Colonel Baldwin in 1808, the enterprise was deprived of the wise and energetic counsellors to whom it owed its existence. Lotteries were deemed necessary as a means to raise money, and in 1816 the canal was voted financial aid. Constant expense was being incurred in the repairing of damages from breaks and the settling of the bed. Four directors were in charge, no one of them in full authority; tolls were uncollected, canal boats were detained, for weeks sometimes, till the owners were ready to unload them. After the death of Governor Sullivan, his son, John Langdon Sullivan, a stockholder in the company, and an engineer and business man, was appointed agent. He compelled the payment of tolls in cash before goods were delivered, charged demurrage on goods not promptly removed, caused repairs to be promptly and thoroughly made, and so improved the business that in 1810 receipts rose to \$15,000, and kept on increasing until in 1816 they were \$32,000. In 1819 the first dividend was paid, the assessments at that time amounting to \$1,455.25 per share on 800 shares, a total expense of \$1,164,200.

The aqueducts and most of the locks being built of wood required large sums for annual repairs, the expenses arising from imperfections in the banks and the erection of toll houses and public houses for the accommodation of the boatmen were considerable, but the heaviest expenses were incurred in opening the Merrimac River for navigation.

From Concord, New Hampshire, to the head of the canal at Middlesex Village, the river has a fall of 123 feet, necessitating various locks and canals. The Middlesex Canal contributed to the building of the Wiscassee locks and canals at Tyngs Island \$12,000; Union locks and canal, \$49,932; Hooksett canal, \$6,750; Bow canal and locks, \$14,115; making a total of \$82,797 to be paid from the income of the canal.

The canal as built was twenty-seven and one-quarter miles long, thirty feet wide at the surface, eighteen feet wide at the bottom, and four feet deep, with seven aqueducts over rivers and streams, twenty locks, and crossed by fifty bridges. Four of the levels were five miles each in extent, the rest of from one to three miles each. The total cost to 1803 was \$528,000, of which one-third was for land damages. Much of the work was done by contract. Laborers received about \$8 per month wages, and carpenters from \$10 to \$15 per month. The locks were eleven feet wide and seventy-five feet long, with an average lift of about seven feet, some being built of wood and others of stone. In the wooden locks the outside walls were of stone, the space between the inner and outer walls being packed with earth. In this way expensive masonry was avoided, though the cost of maintenance in after years was increased.

[To be continued.]

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## CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLS IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

By Frank Mortimer Hawes.

[Continued.]

AT THE BEGINNING of the eighteenth century the Charlestown School, as we have shown, was under the charge of Thomas Swan, M. A. This gentleman was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1689. He was born in Roxbury, September 15, 1669, and was the son of Dr. Thomas and Mary (Lamb) Swan, of that town. In 1690 he was teaching in Hadley. After resigning at Charlestown he became Register of Probate for Middlesex County. December 27, 1692, he married Prudence, daughter of Jonathan Wade, Jr., of Medford, and they had four children, the births of three of whom were recorded in Charlestown. Mr. Swan died at the Castle in Boston Harbor, October 19, 1710, aged 41 years. "He did practise









156545



OLD POWDER HOUSE, SOMERVILLE.

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physick & chyrurgerye at Castle William upward of 7 years, at 12 pence per week for every 20 soldiers garrisoned there." His widow applied to the court for the payment of a sum of money which was her husband's due, and 20 pounds was voted in settlement of the demand.

For his services in Charlestown Mr. Swan received the same remuneration (£40) that was paid at the beginning of the previous century. We have shown how this amount fluctuated from time to time. On account of a varying income arising from the school fund, it is hard to determine always what was the yearly cost of the school. The master's salary sometimes included the rent of a house for his family; sometimes he was allowed to demand of his pupils a small tuition fee. Wood for the schoolhouse, in winter, was pretty generally supplied throughout all New England towns by the pupils' parents. The sum total of the master's earnings seems meagre enough, but we may believe that it averaged well with what was paid in neighboring communities.

If the management of the school for a century showed but little change on its financial side, probably the same might be said of the curriculum of studies. There is no evidence that the school question was a very vital one. The requirements for entrance to Harvard College set the standard. Latin was generally taught, but there is no mention of Greek on our records. We may believe there was little real progress in educational matters, both within and without that charmed circle of scholars. Judging, however, from the character and achievements of the men who taught this particular school, we may well believe that their pupils did not lack mental and moral incentives to good work. In training and experience requisite for what was demanded of them, these teachers must have been the equals of those in any other age. Compared with modern schools, those of that day were most deficient in school appliances. This is particularly noticeable in the poor school buildings. Charlestown had built two in the course of the century, wretched little affairs, both of which, not many years after their erection, were in need of constant repairs.

The education of the daughters of the community is not mentioned. If they received any instruction in the so-called "dame" or "spinning" schools, it was at their own expense. Private schools also for the boys, as the records we have quoted intimate, received their share of patronage, especially from the well-to-do. Not all the young men of Charlestown who graduated from the college were trained in the town school. The sons of the poor had some slight attention, but the "youth," the sons of the better class, whether they knew it or not, formed a privileged order in the community. As yet there was no real democratic equality in educational matters, and no free schools in the modern acceptation of the term.

A list of those accredited to Charlestown, who graduated from Harvard College previous to 1701, may prove interesting. (From Bartlett's Address, 1813.)

Comfort Starr, 1647,	Nathaniel Cutler, 1663,
Samuel Nowell, 1653,	Alexander Nowell, 1664,
Joshua Long, 1653 (?),	Daniel Russell, 1669,
Thomas Greaves, 1656,	Isaac Foster, 1671,
Zechariah Symmes, 1657,	Samuel Phipps, 1671,
Zechariah Brigden, 1657,	Nicholas Morton, 1686,
Benjamin Bunker, 1658,	Nicholas Lynde, 1690,
Joseph Lord, 1691.	

A personal examination of the town records shows that from the opening of this century, almost without exception thereafter, the inhabitants of Charlestown, in town meeting assembled, discussed the welfare of the school and voted the annual appropriation for the same. Thus they were building, better, perhaps, than they knew, for upon foundations, similarly well laid, has risen, slowly but surely, the magnificent structure of our present school system.

March 1, 1702-3. "Voted that the selectmen should provide and agree with a schoolmaster at the Town's charge," and May 18, "voted for the master's pay what shall be wanting besides that already granted to make up his salary to £40 per annum, viz: £30." The same day it was "voted that Lt. Coll. Joseph Lynd, Samuel Heyman, Esq. & Dea. Joseph Kettell be

a committee to agree with a schoolmaster according to instructions given, provided it be either Mr. Thatcher, Mr. Whiteing, Mr. Whittemore, Mr. Tufts, Mr. Anger, or Mr. Burr. Attest, N. Dows, Recorder."

January 21 following, this committee "made return that they had agreed with Mr. Thomas Tufts to keep sd school for one year to perfect Children in Reading & to Learn them to write & Cipher, and to Teach them Gramer, for £40 per annum, & to begin his work the last day of June."

At the next May meeting (1704) £28 was voted "for the schoolmaster to make up his Sallery to £40."

We have not attempted to verify the account of Thomas Tufts, to be found in Brook's History of Medford, and Wyman's Charlestown Genealogies. He graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1701. While there he received £40 per year, by the terms of his grandfather's will. (This was as good as teaching school!) He was the son of Peter Tufts, Jr., (styled "Capt. Peter"). His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Lynde. He was born in Medford, March 31, 1683, and married for his first wife, his cousin, Mary Lynde. She died September 3, 1718, and the following January 29 he married Emma, daughter of Captain Samuel Phipps. Thomas Tufts died December 26, 1733. Wyman records the births of his children.

December 25, 1704, it would appear that the school was again without a teacher, for it was "voted that the Selectmen be a committee to provide a Gramer Schoolmaster for the Town forthwith as soon as possible." Accordingly, on the 29th they enlisted the services of Samuel Heymond, Esq., Capt. Samuel Phipps, and Mr. Joseph Whittemore, "who are to enquire of Mr. Battle and the fellows of the College concerning Mr. Wissell, whether he was a fitt man to be a schoolmaster for this town." These gentlemen reported, January 10, 1705, "that all gave in-coridgment & declare their opinion that as to Mr. Wissell's Learning & other qualifications he was a fitt person for sd work." This report was accepted, and these three gentlemen, along with Mr. Ebenezer Austin as a fourth, were authorized, any two of them, to treat with Mr. Wissell for a term of six months.

Peleg Wiswell (Wiswall) was the son of Rev. Ichabod and Priscilla (Peabody) Wiswall, and was born February 5, 1684, at Duxbury, where his father was ordained and settled. He graduated from Harvard in 1702, and died in 1767. A printed genealogy of the Wiswall family may be consulted. If we remember rightly, he taught many years in the North End School, Boston.

March 4, 1706. It became the duty of the selectmen to provide a schoolmaster for the town, and on the twenty-sixth they empowered Captain Samuel Heyman, Joseph Whittemore, Mr. Bateman, and Robert Wyer "to inquire & treat with Mr. Samuel Burr with reference to his keeping the school in this Towne & to make report at their next meeting." It is recorded that Mr. Burr entered upon his duties, at the rate of £40 per annum, 24 April, 1706.

At the May meeting Captain Heyman and Captain Phipps were empowered to secure workmen for repairing the meeting-house and the schoolhouse; £18 was voted for this object. (At the same meeting Mr. Phipps was voted eleven pounds, four shillings for his services as town representative in 1705.)

March 31, 1707. "It was agreed with Mr. Burr to keep the school one year, as last year, for £40. Also it was ordered that there be another table & two forms provided for the school-house."

May 21, 1707, and May 17, 1708, the usual annual amount was appropriated for the schoolmaster. The vote was the same May 11, 1709, May 22, 1710, and May 23, 1711.

Samuel Burr, A. M. (class of 1697, Harvard), was the son of Major John Burr, of Fairfield, Ct. His mother's maiden name was Sarah Fitch. According to the printed family record, the date of his birth was April 2, 1679; that of his marriage to Elizabeth Jennor (Jenner), June 19, 1707. A daughter, Sarah, born in Cambridge, married Thomas Edwards, of Boston. She received as legacy from her father, a silver tankard, that was her great-grandfather, John Stedman's. Other children of Samuel Burr were John, Samuel, Jr., and Rebecca. Against the name of the widow Wyman has recorded many land trans-



actions. She left a will, dated September 20, 1754. The family genealogy says that Mr. Burr became one of the most famous teachers of his time. For twelve years he was master of the grammar school at Charlestown. He died while master there, August 7, 1719, and was buried in Fairfield, Ct., where there is a monument to his memory. It states that he was educated at Cambridge under the famous William Brattle, and died while on a visit to his native place. We have made our account of this gentleman a somewhat lengthy one, for the reason that his term of service in Charlestown surpassed that of any of his predecessors.

November 19, 1711. "The Selectmen ordered the Repairing the schoolhouse with all Necessary Repairs."

At the meeting of 1712, May 21, we are allowed a little variety. "Voted for Schoolmaster's Sallery, viz.: the Gramer School £40 and £5 to be raised for the payment for some poor children at such women's schools as shall be allowed of by the Selectmen. Being for such Children whose parents are not able to bring them to school, which shall be determined by Captain Samuel Phipps & Captain Jonathan Dows."

Or, as Frothingham, page 246, has it: "The teacher having requested that regulation might be made About the town school, it was voted That, whereas the school, being thronged with so many small reading children that are not able to spell or read as they ought to do, by reason of which Latin scholars, writers, and cypherers cannot be duly attended & instructed as they ought to be, Captain Samuel Phipps & Mr. Jonathan Dows were chosen inspectors & regulators of that matter."

May 20, 1713, the master's salary was increased to £50, and this was the sum paid for the five years following. In 1718 and until 1724, or for six years ensuing, his services were valued at £60.

In 1713 a new building was erected on the Town Hill, near the old schoolhouse. Thus building number two did service thirty-one years, the same length of time as its predecessor. Estimating a schoolhouse of that time as able to withstand the wear and tear of a generation of pupils, we may expect to find this third building yielding to the inevitable about 1745.

Much of the expense of this new building seems to have been covered by voluntary contributions, "one offering a bell, others lime, brick, paint, or stone, and one a 'raising dinner.'" In May the town voted £50 for this purpose, but as the committee in charge had chosen for the location the spot where the "cage" stood, a site north of the meeting-house, a controversy arose and much opposition was expressed. July 14 all previous votes were nulled. Twenty-six citizens now entered a protest; a new meeting was called for August 17, and it was voted to build on the hill near the old house. The original committee then declined to serve. In consequence, the selectmen built the house without advisement. It was "30 feet by 20 feet and 12 feet stud, with one floor of sleepers and one floor of joist aloft." The bills were approved the following February, and amounted to 104£. 4s. 11d. This structure probably served also as a town house.

But to us a more interesting entry is that of town meeting day, May 18, 1714. "Voted £4 for a schoolmaster to teach the children to write among our inhabitants near Reding." As far as we have been able to discover, this is the first appropriation for school purposes "outside the peninsula." Every year thereafter, until May 17, 1725, when this amount had increased to £9, a sum was thus appropriated for a schoolmaster "at ye wood end of the town," or "for a school of children for writing & reading at the upper end of the town." The petition of Captain Benjamin Geary and fifty-three others "to be sett off as a separate town" was presented on that day, and though their prayer was not granted at first, it resulted in a division of the township, and December 17, 1725, the new town of Stoneham was born.

May 13, 1719, a second school without the peninsula was fostered, namely, at the indefinitely located Mistick-side, by an appropriation of £3. This amount was increased to £4 for four years following. In 1724 there seems to have been no vote for this purpose, and May 17, 1725, William Paine and seventeen others presented a petition to be set off to Malden. This request met the same fate as the other, but no doubt the bounds of the town were adjusted later to the satisfaction of all concerned, for we hear no more of this school at "Mistick-side."

These two outlying districts, while under the control of Charlestown, were managed by local committees, whose names are recorded from year to year. In a few instances we know who were the teachers and the length of their service. Thus, at the Stoneham precinct, William Hay taught for the months of February and March, 1721, for the £8. In 1722 George Taylor kept this school for three months, fourteen days, and overrun the appropriation fifteen shillings. In 1724 the teacher was Mr. Hancock, and for 1725 Ebenezer Parker. At Mistick-side John Brentnall kept the school from 8 January to 15 February for the £4 appropriated, and the next year Nathan Burnham rendered a similar service. The query naturally arises whether these outlying districts maintained a school during the major part of the year at their own expense, or are we to suppose that the short periods mentioned represent the sum total of a year's schooling?

October 5, 1719. Among other things, it was voted to provide a bell for the schoolhouse; also that the schoolboys be permitted to sit in the three hindmost seats in the upper part of the front gallery. "They being there under my immediate care and inspection." So petitioned Robert Ward.

May 2, 1720. "Ordered to get two small forms made for Mr. Robert Ward's schoolboys to sit on at the schoolhouse."

November 7, 1720, this gentleman was chosen pastor of the church at Wenham, and ended his labors in Charlestown. The Rev. Robert Ward, of the class of 1719 (Harvard College), died in 1732, at the age of seventy. He was admitted to the Charlestown church December 12, 1714. He seems to have been twice married, if we may trust Wyman's account, which also gives the names and dates of birth of his children. His father, Robert Ward, Sr., was from the county of Munster, Ire., and belonged to the frigate Nonsuch.

December 5, 1720. "The selectmen agreed with Mr. Samuel Barrett, Jr., to keep the gramer school till March 1 for £15."

(To be continued.)

## LITERARY MEN AND WOMEN OF SOMERVILLE.

By David Lee Maulsby.

[CONCLUDED.]

Three persons remain to be briefly considered. Mrs. Mary A. Pillsbury, the daughter of Edwin Leathe, and connected by blood with the Weston family of Reading and the Brooks family of Medford, was born in Lynnfield in 1838. She was married in 1863 to L. B. Pillsbury. Of the four children, Harry N. Pillsbury, it is safe to say, is known as a chess player throughout America and Europe.

Mrs. Pillsbury early began to write poems, "for her own amusement and for the gratification of her friends." In 1888, shortly before her death, a volume of her pieces was published, called "The Legend of the Old Mill, and Other Poems." The title poem is a story of Mallet's old wind-mill, still looking down upon us from the Nathan Tufts Park, perhaps the most venerable landmark of our city. An Acadian maiden, fleeing from one who would have tarnished her honorable name, takes refuge, disguised as a man, in the old mill, by permission of the old miller. Her pursuer finds her there, runs up the steep ladder after her, but by a misstep falls through a hole in the floor, and meets a horrible death. The poems in this volume include rhymed anecdotes, verses suggested by the children, reflections of natural beauty, and thoughts on religious themes.

Mrs. Katherine B. W. Libby, who died within a year (March 7, 1902), was born and educated in Chelsea, but lived in Somerville since shortly after her marriage. Mrs. Libby was remarkable for her patriotism, as well as her predilection for poetry. A "Daughter of the Revolution," a member of this society, and of several social and philanthropic bodies, she bore her part in practical affairs. Her writing, however, was to her of supreme importance: she would drop instantly whatever she might be doing when a thought came to her, that she might not lose its appropriate expression. Her writings have not been collected into book form. They include poems of nature, patriotism, and religion.



Spring, summer, and autumn are celebrated in turn, the autumn garnering

“The bearded grain in sheaves upon the wold,  
Like armored sentinels in coats of gold.”

While

“Through heaven’s blue sea soft clouds of billowy fleece  
Float calmly onward to the port of peace.”

The sinking of the Maine, which stirred the whole country, finds response in “War’s Bugle Call” :—

“Shall sons of freedom falter?  
Shall coward footsteps lag?  
Vile insult has been offered  
Our country’s honored flag.

“March on! our country’s heroes!  
War’s bugle call will cease  
When stainless floats our banner  
In golden light of peace.”

Christmas and Easter are occasions of joy, one the joy of mortal life, the other of immortal:—

“Ho for the merry Christmas tide!  
Replete with warmth and cheer;  
Old Santa Claus, that jolly elf,  
Is swiftly drawing near.  
Then roll the Yule-log to the hearth,  
And light the fires aglow,  
With holly deck the festal board,  
Hang up the mistletoe.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“Unveil thy blushing face!  
Awake, glad Easter day!  
An angel from the sepulchre  
Hath rolled the stone away.

“Ye bells, thy silver tongues  
These tidings sweetly tell,  
And from the wind-harp’s throbbing strings  
Doth joy’s glad anthem swell.”

It is clear that Mrs. Libby had a feeling for metrical language, and also, in her best work, a measure of that essential impulse which makes poetry what it is.

A still more recent loss is that of Mrs. Lowe, who died May 9, 1902. Mrs. Martha Perry Lowe for many years was known as one of the most public-spirited women in this city, active in all good work. Her literary productions include a “Memoir” of her husband, Rev. Charles Lowe, who from 1859 to 1865 was pastor of the First Unitarian church here, and afterward Secretary of the American Unitarian Society. It is said that, in the midst of her numerous deeds of practical beneficence, Mrs. Lowe yet cherished the name of poet above all others. She has left four volumes of verse, and one longer poem unpublished. It is safe to say that, of the published books, “The Olive and the Pine” and “The Immortals” contain the poems by which Mrs. Lowe will be remembered. The former includes verses that are the outcome of travels in Spain, when her brother was secretary of the American Legation at Madrid. It also includes poems of New England. Among the former is a vivid description of a Spanish bull-fight, closing with this address to the reigning princess:—

“Go, fair Infanta, dream  
Of bloody death to-day!  
Thy little children seem  
To see it when they pray.  
And, lo! the nations far  
Do point, with warning hand,  
To yonder stains that are  
Upon thy native land!”

The glimpses of picturesque Spain were not more lovely to the writer’s young eyes than the homely beauties of New Eng-

land, as the following lines from "The Road Over the Hills" will show :—

"The squirrel quick hath run  
Across the track unto the old gray wall,  
Wreathed o'er with thorny vines, while brambles tall  
Beset it 'round; and 'neath the summer sun  
Floats the bronzed butterfly until—behold !—  
His wings are turning all to burnished gold !  
And all day, in the wild young cricket's ear,  
The locust proseth; but she will not hear.  
And, hark ! a sudden stream of melody  
Comes quivering through the calm and silent wood ;  
'T is the sweet thrush, far from the gazing eye,  
Who swelleth now her little gushing throat  
Alone for her dear mate and tender brood ;  
And, ere the air hath caught that lovely note,  
'T is gone, and all the woods are dark and lone.  
And long they wait expectant of that tone,  
Nor know they where she sits, until again  
Her music runneth quick through all their bowers,  
And ceaseth. Ah ! no nightingales of Spain,  
That sing at night around Grenada's towers,  
So fondly all my ear and heart did gain."

There is a reflection of considerable variety of experience in this volume. The organist in the Spanish cathedral, compelling into his notes the image of his dead wife, gives place to the vastness and awe of the desolate ocean seen from the shore at Beverly. Here is a German lesson, inspiring the young teacher with a hopeless passion for his fair pupil. There is a sympathetic portrayal of a sick woman, waiting patiently from day to day, and from season to season, for the death that is so long in coming, but that comes at last. Glimpses of natural beauty relieve the sadness of such scenes. Take, for example, "The Silent Way," describing a woodland path so thickly guarded that neither the winds of March nor the midsummer sun, nor even November frost, can enter.

"But go at sweet Midsummer night;  
The pines with showers are spicy yet,  
The birches tremble at the set  
Of sun, in pale, transfigured light,  
And low the savin clusters wet.

"Go on between the tangled walls  
Of shining twigs, that drop the rain;  
Then 'round the hill, to greet again  
The purple day before it falls,  
And breathe the clover on the plain."

Such bits from Nature occur on the background of country life. "The Quilting" and "The Husking" are two companion poems, through both of which a single love story runs, troublous, but with a happy ending.

In "The Immortals," Mrs. Lowe celebrates heroes and friends that have gone from sight. Charlotte Bronte, Mrs. Browning, Chatterton, Shelley represent the English poets; Lowell, Emerson, Whittier, and E. R. Sill, the Americans; Channing and Brooks and Charles Lowe, her husband, the ministers; to say nothing of the several friends commemorated, dearer than any stranger. Let us choose a few stanzas from "Sleepy Hollow," written on the occasion of Emerson's funeral:—

"They bore him up the aisle,  
His white hands folded meekly on his breast;  
He had the very smile  
He wore the night he gently sank to rest.

"The words of love were said,  
We prayed and sang together; all was done;  
And then the way they led  
Along the street, the people following on.

"We covered him with green:—  
He loved the hemlock branches and the pine,—  
And there he lay, serene,  
And yet not he, not there the spark divine.



“Be thou not over sad,  
Dear ancient town in thy affliction sore;  
Think that what thou hast had  
Is thine to keep and give forevermore.”

I think I have read enough to show those of us who had not the privilege of Mrs. Lowe's acquaintance that she was a woman of genuine love for nature and for man, of fine perceptions, and of a considerable degree of skill in the art of verse-making. If her muse responds more readily to the melancholy than to the joyous note in human life, we can remind ourselves of what one of the greatest American poets and critics has urged: that a “certain taint of sadness is inseparably connected with all the higher manifestations of true beauty.”

And so the end is reached of our roll of authors that have passed away. If we have not found rivals of the greater poets of America, if our story writers have still something to learn from those of England and France, surely a beginning has been made, and the end is not yet. The living writers of our city are as numerous, as industrious, as well equipped in endowment and literary art as their predecessors. We will not boast of our achievement, past or present. But it is safe to say that in history, in fiction, and in poetry, Somerville has authors whom she well may cherish. We need not name them; we know them. Let us expect that they will try themselves by high standards, that they will not be content with what they have already done, that they will strive to lift our city among those rare historic places where men and women have lived who have uttered in the best way the best that was in them.

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1903-1904.

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First Vice-President,	Luther B. Pillsbury.
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PROSPECT HILL TOWER.



# HISTORIC LEAVES

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## THE PROSPECT HILL PARK CELEBRATION.

THE DEDICATION of the Prospect Hill Park, October 29, 1903, called attention to one of the most significant historic locations in our local limits, and one of the most significant historic events in our national history. The raising of the flag on Prospect Hill, January 1, 1775, was an event that looms larger and larger as time goes on. It was a small, but sturdy people shaking the fist of defiance at an old and powerful empire. Subsequent events disclosed that this was no idle threat. A young nation really announced itself at this time.

Prospect Hill has not attained the renown which its significance deserves. It should be a spot of historic pilgrimage second only to Bunker Hill and Lexington. But it has received very meagre attention at the hands of the general historian, and, until lately, has been held in but slight local estimation. This condition of affairs will now continue no longer. We now see the events which happened on this height in their true perspective, and their significance is felt and appreciated. The Somerville Historical Society will, undoubtedly, from time to time, unearth new facts and forgotten events in connection with this place. It furnishes a theme worthy of much investigation, and new historic data of significance may be expected. But even if no further historic facts are brought to light, Prospect Hill cannot, in the future, lapse into the comparative obscurity of the past. It must remain one of the beacon heights in American history.

Prospect Hill Park, as it is at present arranged, is one of the most beautiful parks in the state for outlook and for general beauty of arrangement. But at first it was a very unpromising location, unsightly in the extreme, and by no means an orna-

mental adjunct to the scenery. The artistic laying out of the park was the work of much thought and careful consideration. This was accomplished through the efforts of the City Engineer, Ernest W. Bailey. The tower that surmounts the height was planned in his office. The imposing beauty of this structure grows upon the observer, and has been highly praised by architectural experts.

The work of preparing suitable inscriptions for this tower was delegated to the Somerville Historical Society, which in turn turned it over to the Committee on Historic Sites. This committee consists of Messrs. J. O. Hayden, Charles D. Elliot, and Luther B. Pillsbury. The committee, after much study, decided upon the following inscriptions:—

THE AMERICAN ARMY UNDER GENERAL PUTNAM  
ON JUNE 17, 1775  
WITHDREW FROM BUNKER HILL TO THIS HEIGHT  
AND HERE ERECTED THE  
CITADEL  
THE STRONGEST WORK  
IN THE BESIEGING LINES OF BOSTON  
AND WHICH FOR THE NINE MONTHS WITHSTOOD  
THE BRITISH BOMBARDMENT  
JUNE 17, 1775, TO MARCH 17, 1776.

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HERE ON JULY 18, 1775  
WAS RAISED AMID GREAT REJOICING THE FLAG  
PRESENTED TO GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM  
AND HIS HEROIC SOLDIERS  
BEARING THE MOTTO OF CONNECTICUT  
"QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET"  
AND OF MASSACHUSETTS, "AN APPEAL  
TO HEAVEN."

FROM THIS EMINENCE  
ON JANUARY 1, 1776  
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED COLONIES  
BEARING THIRTEEN STRIPES AND THE CROSSES  
OF SAINT GEORGE AND SAINT ANDREW  
FIRST WAVED DEFIANCE TO A FOE.

---

“THE FLOWER OF THE BRITISH ARMY”  
PRISONERS OF WAR  
WHO SURRENDERED AT SARATOGA  
WERE QUARTERED ON THIS HILL  
FROM NOVEMBER 7, 1777, TO OCTOBER 15, 1778  
GUARDED BY AMERICAN TROOPS  
UNDER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH.

---

ON THIS HISTORIC HILL  
ANSWERING THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL  
IN 1862  
ENCAMPED THE SOLDIERS OF SOMERVILLE  
WHOSE RECORD OF PATRIOTISM AND FORTITUDE  
IN THE CIVIL WAR  
IS WORTHY OF HIGHEST HONOR  
AND COMMEMORATION.

---

THESE INSCRIPTIONS WERE PREPARED  
BY THE SOMERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The following is the inscription for the inside of the tower :—

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED  
IN MEMORY OF THE  
SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION  
AND OF THE CIVIL WAR  
WHO ENCAMPED ON  
PROSPECT HILL  
AND OF THE BANNERS  
UNDER WHICH THEY  
VALIANTLY FOUGHT.

---

THIS TOWER AND PARK  
DEDICATED OCTOBER 29, 1903.

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No excuse is necessary for suspending the regular issue of this publication to commemorate an event like this. The regular features of this magazine will be resumed with our next issue. This is a Prospect Hill number.

For the abstract of the exercises and addresses of the dedication we are indebted to the Somerville Journal.

Promptly at 2 o'clock, Thursday, October 29, 1903, to the music of the band and a salute from the gun of the naval brigade, Mrs. Lilla E. Arnold, of 28 Vinal avenue, unfurled a handsome new American flag from the top of the observatory. Mrs. Arnold is a direct descendant of Captain Jonathan Poole, who was "the standard bearer of the first flag designed and floated by the colonists in America," about 1658. The flag was presented to the city by Prospect-hill Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, of Somerville.

After a selection by the band, prayer was offered by Rev. J. Vanor Garton, pastor of the West Somerville Baptist Church.

The programme included: Singing, "The Flag," H. K. Hadley, by the pupils of the high schools, led by S. Henry Hadley; introductory address by Mayor Edward Glines; address, His Excellency Governor John L. Bates; singing (a) "The Breaking Waves Dashed High," (b) "Battle Hymn of the Republic," by the pupils; address, His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Curtis Guild, Jr.; singing, "The Star-Spangled Banner," (with accompaniment by the band); remarks, by John F. Ayer, president of the Somerville Historical Society; poem, by Librarian Sam Walter Foss; music, Eighth Regiment band; singing, "America."

#### ADDRESS BY MAYOR GLINES.

Mayor Glines said in part:—

Somerville appears to-day in a dual role. She is both guest and hostess. She is honored, and, in turn, she bestows honor. She invites His Excellency the Governor and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of this great commonwealth to participate in these ceremonies. She honors them by a reception such as only so patriotic a city can give, and feels herself honored indeed by the unusual compliment of the presence of both of these distinguished statesmen.

She is honored by the presence of those into whose care she has entrusted her keeping; by the presence of these old men, who have watched her grow from infancy to youth, and from youth to a strong young womanhood; by the divine supplication in her behalf; by the singing of the two hundred pupils from her surpassing high schools; by the song of her poet; by the stirring strains of the band; and by the military display that is to her a reminder of days that were not days of peace.

And, too, she is honored by this vast concourse of people—the outpouring of her citizens to celebrate an event in her history. In return, she honors us each and all by granting to us to step upon this hallowed soil and to breathe in the patriotic atmosphere of this occasion.

We believe these exercises will be carried out in manner most befitting; but however grandly we might have planned,



however nobly we might have wrought, it would not have been overdone, for, to do more than justice to so altogether worthy a theme—that were an impossibility.

It has been aptly said, "Prospect Hill stands upon the same plane as Bunker Hill, Lexington Green, Concord Bridge, and Plymouth Rock."

The British trooped by the foot of this hill on that memorable night when Paul Revere's warning notes rang all along the way from Charlestown to Lexington and Concord.

Less than twenty-four hours afterward, its base was again skirted by the redcoats, as they beat their hasty retreat towards Charlestown, and it was here,

"From behind each fence and farmyard wall,"

that the hottest shot and swiftest-flying bullets of their whole retreat accelerated their hurrying movements.

#### ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR BATES.

Governor Bates spoke as follows:—

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I extend her greetings to her citizens in Somerville, and her congratulations on the dedication to-day of this historic spot and granite tower to liberty-loving people everywhere. Fellow citizens, you have done well. You have recognized the relation which the fortifications erected here bear to the history of our nation. The work done on Bunker Hill showed that the patriots of 1775 could fight. The work done here showed that they would never give up; that they could stand, but could not run.

So it came to pass while redcoats filled the town of Boston, while British warships thundered in the harbor and on the river, while the red-coated soldiers flung their defiance from yonder Bunker Hill, that upon this mount patriots plied the shovel, minutemen tramped the redoubt, and Lee, and Greene, and Sullivan, and Putnam planned bulwarks of revolution, and Washington raised the thirteen stripes of Union, and all the time, sheltered behind the citadel of this hill, a liberty-loving dependent people were becoming a liberty-demanding independent nation.

Behind the bulwarks erected here—bulwarks of sand and





GOVERNOR JOHN L. BATES.



MAYOR EDWARD GLINES.



JOHN F. AYER.



REV. J. VANOR GARTON.

men and of men with sand—was laid the foundation of a new commonwealth, was born a new nation—the mightiest of any age. Here the very wind tells of devotion and of struggle, and here may this monument ever stand to show not only the appreciation in which you hold the deeds of the fathers, but also that it may be the witness that the generation of to-day values its magnificent heritage, and is true to the ideals of those who bequeathed it.

Congratulations, then, again to Somerville that it possesses this interesting historic park, and congratulations on having a citizenship with the patriotism, the public spirit, and the generous heart to conceive and carry out this noble memorial.

#### ADDRESS BY LT.-GOVERNOR GUILD.

Mr. Guild said in part:—

The monument we meet to dedicate is fittingly enough a suggestion of the battlemented turrets of a flag-tower. Here lay the embattled lines that for the last time saw a foreign foeman tread the soil of Massachusetts. Here for the first time was hoisted the first flag of an American Union.

Not here but on a neighboring height was stored the powder of the Middlesex towns so desired by General Gage, but though his soldiers on September 1, 1774, did secure "212 Half Barrels of Powder" belonging to King George, they were too late to secure the rebel powder, for Medford, the last of all the towns to act, had carried hers away just forty-eight hours before.

From this historic height, now shorn, alas, at the command of commerce, of its yet loftier peak, the country folk of the Mystic valley saw this first hostile demonstration of the Revolution. Hither, too, came the British raging with the march and fight that had lasted well-nigh twenty-four hours on that historic nineteenth of April, for the battle that began on Lexington Common ended on the slopes of Prospect Hill. The British flankers surprised the American minutemen, firing upon the column in the street below. The boys fled before the redcoats. James Miller, of Somerville, alone showed that the gray hairs of age may outdare at times even the red blood of youth.

"I am too old to run," he said, and for the first time this historic spot was stained with the blood of the white man, where the old man died the death of a soldier and a gentleman.

From that day till the end of the siege of Boston the spot where Somerville's first blood was shed became the very Mount Pisgah of the American line.

Here for the first time after the first battle of the Revolution the officers of the Massachusetts forces were summoned. Here with the first guard mount of the Revolution on the evening that followed the Concord fight the siege of Boston began. Here, after the Pyrrhic victory of the English at Bunker Hill, came the men who retired only when the lack of powder left them without the means to fight.

Here they made their stand and invited the further attack that never came. The scarlet tide that overflowed the crest of Charlestown paused before this barrier that since has never known upon its crest the flutter in triumph of an alien flag.

The first flag to fly from the redoubt on Prospect Hill was not that of Massachusetts. Putnam had built the works, and Putnam, though a son of Massachusetts, hoisted on July 18, 1775, the flag not of his native but of his adopted state; the flag of the state which, except Massachusetts, contributed most to the Revolution. It was Connecticut's flag with its "*Qui Transulit Sustinet*" and the motto of all the revolutionists, "*An Appeal to Heaven.*"

Nor were all the troops that gathered here even from New England. Riflemen of Virginia and Pennsylvania and Maryland camped upon these slopes, and in this first serious contest of our country against a foreign enemy, as in the last, when we crossed the seas to fight a foreign foe, stood together not as Virginians or sons of Massachusetts, but as Americans united against the common enemy.

#### ADDRESS BY JOHN F. AYER.

John F. Ayer's address was as follows:—

The tower is completed, outwardly, at all events. Still there remains to be placed in position the historical tablet. The



committee has placed this in the hands of the Somerville Historical Society to formulate. That very important and agreeable duty the Historical Society will cheerfully and conscientiously perform.

In concise and dignified English, it will tell the story, that all, young and old, may readily comprehend the reason of its erection, and be impressed with the lesson the monument itself conveys.

I fear we here do not the half appreciate the historic value of our surroundings—do not half comprehend or value the riches, historically speaking, of our city, even, to say nothing of the wealth of such material in the region included in the original Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies. We do well to mark all historic spots, and to call attention to these grand features in the landscape of our city.

As the most interesting colonial object outside of the Old Mill at Newport, R. I., the Powder House stands a monument to the liberality of one of our honored families. It and the park surrounding it deservedly attract the interest and admiration of all lovers of the historic, both native and the stranger within our gates.

Quarry Hill and Prospect Hill are surely immortalized. Why not immortalize the spot where the Blessing of the Bay was launched by erecting a fitting monument there?

Why not, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen of the city government, consider its claim for recognition? The Blessing of the Bay was the forerunner of that great shipbuilding interest that made Medford and New England famous—the forerunner, also, of the American navy, for it became the first armed cruiser of America, and although of tiny proportions—only twenty-one tons—it did good service along the shores of New England in protecting the interests of the settlers—the traders and the fishermen—from the attacks of Indians and others on the high seas.

Mr. Mayor, when the history of Somerville shall appear, one of the most interesting chapters, I fancy, will refer to "Somerville During the Siege of Boston." The whole of our area was virtually a military camp. The line of earthworks ex-

tended across the town from Mystic river to the Cambridge line, thence on to Dorchester; our own citizens, as well as the other undisciplined yeomen from all the back country, lined the trenches and stood behind the guns!

In some way the exact line of these entrenchments and these forts should be permanently marked. I would suggest a line of steel flagstaffs at regular intervals from which each day Old Glory should float; from the top of these poles at night part-colored incandescent lights might appear, and so by a display of flags by day and a line of electric lights at night, the way might be outlined, and thus authoritatively made plain to us to-day and to the generations which shall follow us. In connection with this observatory, a display of this kind would prove a great attraction and would draw many to our city to enjoy the magnificent outlook from the tower, and to note the location of the old-time earthwork across the city.

With the placing of the tablet, the monument will be completed, and stand as a sacred memorial of the great struggle of 1775 and 1776, which resulted in the evacuation of Boston, and ultimately in the independence of the colonies.

May the lesson which it teaches be taken home to all our hearts, may our interest in things historical and in all the means for the promulgation of historic truths, and our veneration for the noble men of former times and their patriotic deeds, increase from year to year, and our pride in the good name of our city and its historical objects and landmarks endure even unto the end.

### THE FLAG OF PROSPECT HILL.

Poem by Sam Walter Foss.

Full many men must meet and mix  
To form a nation. On this height,  
On that first day of 'seventy-six,  
A nation rose in sight.  
And on this height stood men the peers  
Of God's strong souls of all the years.

Time-tempered men from farm and shop,  
The disciplined recruits of toil,  
The fruitage and the chiefest crop  
Of Freedom's sturdy soil.

A strong deed, in an hour of need,  
Finds strong men equal to the deed.

"Who is this chieftain from the South  
Strong in his youth yet sternly sage?"—  
"Fame placed her trumpet to her mouth  
And blew his name to every age,  
And still that blast blows on and on  
That peals the name of Washington."

"What is that tall white shaft of pine?"  
"That shaft when many years have gone  
Shall be a nation's lifted sign  
For centuries to look back upon;  
To loom through perils, victories, fears,  
A beacon for a thousand years."

"But see! there floats an unknown flag,  
A flag unseen, unknown before;  
Let England's might tear down the rag  
That dares to flaunt upon this shore—  
Aye, snatch the insolent shred away—  
'Tis but the banner of a day!"

"Ah no; by many breezes fanned,  
That flag shall float o'er field and town,  
And strong, ah, strong, must be the hand  
That tears that lifted banner down.  
Old thrones shall reel, old realms shall die,  
But still that flag shall wave on high."

"But who are these plain plowmen here,  
These wielders of the axe and spade,  
In awkward regimental gear  
Drawn up in loose parade?"

"Why these are empire builders, man,  
The greatest since the world began."

"Who are these cohorts from the wood?"

"They are the vanguard files of fate,  
Proud men of red, imperial blood,  
High, regal souls, and great,  
The children of a haughty name,  
The sires of states and sons of fame."

"And here to-day breaks on this height  
The sun-burst of a nation's morn,  
That unknown banner greets the light  
That sees an empire born,  
And these wide ranks that round us stand  
Are fathers of a mighty land."

They flung their banner to the wind,  
They flung it in the face of foes,—  
And thus they published to mankind  
That human nature grows,  
And that a youngling state had grown  
Too big for insults from a throne.

That flag now floats from many a height,  
And waves its word from crag to crag,  
Beyond the day, across the night,—  
The sunrise and the sunset flag;  
That flag is blown by every breeze,  
Across the world and all its seas.

And as it waves from slope to slope  
From sea to sea, or far or near,  
Ah, may it never shame the hope  
Of those strong men who placed it here,  
But be, on sea or shore unfurled,  
The banner of the hope of the world.







RAISING THE FIRST AMERICAN UNION FLAG ON PROSPECT HILL, JANUARY 1, 1776.  
From the Painting by Clyde O. De Land.

## ISRAEL PUTNAM AND PROSPECT HILL.

There was no more interested reader of the account of the dedication of Prospect Hill Park and Memorial Tower, we venture to assert, than the venerable Dr. Putnam, of Salem, and at the request of the president of the Somerville Historical Society, he has prepared the following article for publication. It is a subject which has long interested him, and out of the fullness of his heart he writes as he has done. He here makes some limited use of his pamphlet discussion of the command at Bunker Hill, which was published several years ago, and was highly praised and approved by eminent historians, scholars, statesmen, lawyers, military men, and others. The edition having long since been exhausted, he hopes to issue another by and by, to which he will add a copious Appendix, with various letters and several more illustrations. The work bears the title of "Israel Putnam and Bunker Hill," as the following is entitled "Israel Putnam and Prospect Hill."

John F. Ayer, Esq., President Somerville Historical Society:—

Dear Sir: I thank you very much for the copy you sent me of the Somerville Journal, containing a full account of the dedication, on the twenty-ninth of October, of Prospect Hill Park and Memorial Tower. The very appropriate and eloquent speeches, and all the proceedings of the occasion, as reported in that paper, are seen to have been most interesting and admirable, and you all are greatly to be congratulated on your signal success in such a commemoration of the important events of your local history that occurred at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. I only regret that I could not be present, then and there, it would have been such a real delight to me.

It gives me much pleasure to comply with your request for some facts about General Israel Putnam and his occupancy of Prospect Hill, additional to those which were briefly stated by the speakers on the day of celebration. Let me say at the outset that I have not the honor of being a descendant of the old hero, yet from such study as I have been able to make of his life and character, I have too much admiration for him and too deep a

sense of the incalculable value of his service to his country and ours, not to join with others in seeking to do ample justice to his memory, especially as regards the noblest work or deeds of his illustrious career. Mayor Glines, Governor Bates, and Lieutenant-Governor Guild made various fitting allusions to him in their addresses, but at a time when so much must have crowded upon their minds from the recorded annals that came to view, one can well understand how crisp and short must needs have been the mention of even the chiefest matters. I can only hope to fill out to some extent certain things that were so pertinently and effectively said; and the better to present what I would fain write, and to make the story as complete as I can or may under the circumstances and for the present purpose, let me quote here the allusions to which I have referred, and which I think may well be repeated in this connection.

Said Mayor Glines: "On the evening of June 16, 1775, this soil again resounded with the tramp of soldiers, as the gallant Colonel Prescott and a thousand men under his inspiring lead swept by on their way to Bunker Hill. It was here that on the night of June 16 General Putnam, the gallant 'Old Put' of ploughshare and wolf's-den fame, began throwing up the intrenchments which soon became the citadel of the works running from the Charles to the Mystic, and the very stronghold of the besieging American army." And he also said: "Prospect Hill is especially dear to us, not for the fact that its occupation by Putnam doubtless saved Cambridge, so vital to the enemy, and perhaps the very country; not that here it was, a month almost to a day after Bunker Hill was fought, that 'an American flag was thrown to the breeze before an enemy,' the scarred ensign of the Third Connecticut Regiment, 'Putnam's flag'; not that here for many weary days were encamped the Massachusetts and Rhode Island troops of General Nathaniel Greene, nor because it was here that many of the troops of Burgoyne's surrendered army were quartered after Arnold's strategy got the better of them at Saratoga; not for records like these, but because here, on the first day of January, 1776, on which the new Continental Army was organized in the presence of our great and good

Washington, there was hoisted the flag that by its stripes of alternate hues proclaimed the cementing of the thirteen American colonies in a common bond against British oppression. This record," Mayor Glines declared, "belongs to the sublimest page in the history of the hill."

I quote, also, from the speech of Governor Bates, who said: "So it came to pass that while redcoats filled the town of Boston, while British warships thundered in the harbor and on the river, while the red-coated soldiers flung their defiance from yonder Bunker Hill, upon this mount patriots plied the shovel, minute-men tramped the redoubt, and Lee, and Greene, and Sullivan, and Putnam" (some reversal of the order of the names needed) "planned bulwarks of revolution, and Washington raised the thirteen stripes of Union, and all the time, sheltered behind the citadel of the hill, a liberty-loving, dependent people were becoming a liberty-demanding, independent nation."

And Lieutenant-Governor Guild said: "The first flag to fly from the redoubt on Prospect Hill was not that of Massachusetts. Putnam had built the works, and Putnam, though a son of Massachusetts, hoisted on July 18, 1775, the flag, not of his native state, but of his adopted state, the flag of the state which, except Massachusetts, contributed most to the Revolution. It was Connecticut's flag, with its 'Qui transtulit sustinet,' and the motto of all the Revolutionists, 'An Appeal to Heaven.'" And Mr. Guild added: "Colonel Stephen Moylan, of Moylan's Dragoons, a witty Corkonian in the American army, gives a comic picture of 'Old Put,' the only thing, he says, that did not thaw during that sloppy winter. 'With solemn mien,' says Moylan, "'Old Put' tramped amongst his men, answering every question with 'Powder! Powder! Ye gods, give us powder!'" Mr. Guild seems to connect this story with "these slopes" of Prospect Hill as a "vivid picture of the scene," but Colonel S. A. Drake, in his "Old Landmarks of Middlesex," with somewhat more probability or truth transfers it to Lechmere Point in East Cambridge at a time in the dead of winter, 1775-'76, when Putnam was there constructing works of defense, and when, owing to the "heavy fire" of the British and to "the frozen condition of



the ground, which made the labor one of infinite difficulty, it was not until the last days of February that the redoubts were completed." The severity of the season must have lessened in January to permit the operations thus to go on to success, and to justify these words of the same month from an officer whom the colonel thus quotes: "The bay is open,—everything thaws except 'Old Put.' He is still as hard as ever crying out for 'Powder! Powder! Ye gods, give us powder!'" It may have been a frequent cry with the General, and no wonder; but we doubt very much whether he raised it on the "slopes" of Prospect Hill in the "sloppy winter" of June and July, 1775, when all accounts attest that only then was he ever there, and that the weather was extremely hot. An Essex county man once presented, with other charges, a bill to his neighbor for the use of a horse and sleigh for a June ride, whereupon the latter said that he would see if he had jotted down the circumstance, but he could hardly remember that he had ever taken a sleighride in June. We can better credit the statement, "Everything thaws here except 'Old Put.'"

I copy thus fully these various allusions to General Putnam's service on Prospect Hill, all the more because they are a juster treatment of the patriot warrior than that which certain writers have meted out to him in their accounts of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Some facts with reference to that momentous event seem to me to be necessary here, as showing more clearly in what capacity and by whose authority he led his broken army, after the engagement, to Somerville, and what was the significance of his command and work on and around its famous height.

All know with what alacrity Putnam, as soon as he heard of the Battle of Lexington, left his plough in his field at Pomfret, his Connecticut home, and flew horseback to Cambridge and Concord, where, after an all night's ride of a hundred miles, he arrived the next morning, and immediately consulted with the patriot committees and authorities there. His military exploits for ten years in the French and Indian wars had given him great renown as a brave, energetic, and resolute soldier, full of resources and love of country. He had already shown that he was an



ardent and active friend of the cause of the colonies, and his rank was now that of lieutenant-colonel. His coming was hailed by all with greatest enthusiasm, and was worth, says Colonel Drake, the historian, an accession of ten thousand men to the movement on foot at that critical juncture. It was decided that a large New England or American army should be raised, and a stirring appeal was speedily sent broadcast to this end; and as the quota from Connecticut would be about six thousand men, Putnam hurried back to that state to put matters in train for their swift recruitment, organization, and march. As soon as he had done this, he hastened his return to Cambridge before them with a company of his own, and with a drove of sheep for the suffering patriots of Boston. He was stationed by General Ward, the commander-in-chief, at Cambridgeport, nearest Boston, and at a most exposed and important point in the siege of that city, and the hardy yeomanry of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island straightway came rushing in large numbers to headquarters, in response to the call. It was decided by the Committee of Safety, when they learned that the enemy was about to sally forth from Boston for an attack, that Bunker Hill should at once be fortified; and accordingly they "recommended to the Council of War that the above-mentioned Bunker's Hill be maintained by sufficient force being posted there." As Putnam was plainly the ruling spirit of the Council, he probably had much to do with designating Prescott and his thousand Massachusetts and Connecticut men for the service. He was anxious to bring the foe out of their pent-up quarters, and fight them at once on more "equal terms." He had just been made brigadier-general by his adopted state, and he was now made general superintendent of the detachment. Said Colonel Samuel Swett in his story of the Battle of Bunker Hill, which was published in 1818, and was declared by Alden Bradford, the historian of Massachusetts, "The Christian Examiner," and other highest authorities, to be the most correct and perfect of all the earlier accounts of the engagement, whatever additional details have since been gathered: "General Putnam, having the general superintendence of the expedition, and the

engineer, Colonel Gridley, accompanied the troops." General Seth Pomeroy, it may be stated, also went with them, and this was on the evening of June 16. As they reached the base of Bunker Hill, there was a memorable halt, when an animated discussion took place as to which height they should fortify, that or Breed's Hill just beyond it; or, in case they should intrench on both, which of the two they should begin with first. Contrary to the expectations of the Committee of Safety, they finally concluded to go on and occupy Breed's, "nearer Boston," doubtless having been instructed to do so by the Council of War, with permission to act as they should think best, as they drew near the place and considered all the circumstances of the situation. There, as they reached the summit, Putnam, Gridley, and Prescott laid out the ground and formed the plan for the historic earthwork or redoubt which the men with vigorous toil erected during the night on the spot where now Bunker Hill Monument stands. As the enemy saw early the next morning what had been done during the darkness, they began a lively fire at the fort from their ships on the river and from the opposite shore, while later they landed troops from Boston at Moulton's Point (Moreton's or Morton's), the northeastern end of the peninsula, with the evident intent to march along the Mystic, and so flank Prescott and his garrison at the redoubt. To intercept them, the provincials of the several states who had come upon the ground hastily made a barricade of a rail fence that stretched between the Mystic and Breed's Hill by stuffing it with new-mown grass that lay plentifully in the field near at hand, and here between the two points were lined, also, regiments, or parts of regiments, as they continued to arrive and to be assigned their places by General Putnam; Stark and Reed, with their brave men from New Hampshire, as the left wing by the Mystic, with Prescott and most of his detachment at Breed's as the right wing, while along the middle way were stationed General Pomeroy and Captain Knowlton, with their respective Massachusetts and Connecticut forces. As the proud and formidable column of the foe came on, the serried array of the patriot yeomanry met it in fiercest combat, and hurled it back under the lead of Putnam,

who now had assumed the supreme command, by right of superior rank, and had taken his post near the eastern base or lower declivities of Bunker Hill, where he could best survey the scene and order the action of the day; riding, as he did, this way and that along the lines to encourage and strengthen his soldiers in the hour of conflict; or hastening to the rear in the lull of battle to hurry on the expected and needed, but tardy, reinforcements. Enraged at their first discomfiture, these fine old veterans of the British army, notwithstanding their heavy loss, dashed themselves once more against the Yankee farmers and craftsmen at the fence where the slaughter of the battle was most terrible, and whence they were driven back a second time with greater loss than before, "the dead lying on the ground as thick as sheep in a fold." Stung to madness by such successive defeats, the grenadiers and light infantry of the foe rallied for another assault, and, turning a little to the left with fresh accessions, made a desperate rush for the redoubt, and soon captured it, after a stout and heroic resistance by Prescott and his garrison, many of the latter being killed by the victors, while the rest of them, with the commanding colonel himself, made their escape and went their way to Cambridge.

Meanwhile the heroes at the fence, exhausted from fighting, suffering from heat, and decimated in numbers, seeing that the fort was in possession of the enemy, and that they themselves were in danger of being flanked and captured, began to retreat and to fall into disorder and confusion. Putnam was now at the height of his tremendous power and energy. With voice like thunder, and with almost superhuman action, he commanded and entreated his compatriots,—some say even with oaths,—to make one stand more for battle and victory; but all in vain. They were too much weakened and demoralized for the attempt, so that not their commander's prodigious exertion itself availed to bring order out of chaos and make them renew the strife; and then it was that he saw that the effort was hopeless, and, gathering what of the army was left, and joining certain fresh arrivals to it, he marched the whole over the Neck to Prospect Hill, there to intrench in full sight of the foe, and like a lion at bay to be

prepared for another encounter. It was one of the wisest and best deeds of his life. But for that, the British might in the hour of their triumph have pursued the frightened and flying host, and made Somerville, Cambridge, and other towns their prey; but with such an obstacle in their path, they did not choose to undertake the venture. Well said Mr. Guild, "Here, after the Pyrrhic victory of the English at Bunker Hill, came the men who invited the further attack that never came"; and said Governor Bates, "The red-coated soldiers flung their defiance from yonder Bunker Hill." It was all they could do. What might possibly have been the disastrous consequences, had not Putnam occupied Prospect Hill as he did, is intimated in words already quoted from Mayor Glines. At any rate, the service is seen to have been one of immense importance, and it was one entirely of the general's own choosing. It was at a moment of fearful excitement and disorder, when neither General Ward nor any other authority could be consulted, and when the destinies of an empire seemed to tremble in the balance. In that dread crisis Putnam acted solely on his own responsibility. Says Dr. Increase N. Tarbox in his remarkable "Life of Israel Putnam" (1876): "We have his own express statement on this point, made to the Committee of Safety not long after, at a time when he had the burden of some grievance on his mind. He says, 'Pray, did I not take possession of Prospect Hill the very night after the fight on Bunker Hill, without having any orders from any person? And was not I the only general officer that tarried there?' " And this action by General Putnam was not less wise and of his own accord than it was courageous and full of his proverbial grit. He was not one to fly from the field in the hour of danger with the scared and discouraged officers and shattered regiments, and hasten to Cambridge to report with Prescott that the day was lost. He chose to take his post near the Neck, and dispute the passage of the victors and face the consequences. Who would have done it if he had not?

And it all goes to show that his was the supreme command at Bunker Hill, as it was on Prospect Hill. Bancroft, who was a warm friend and partisan of Prescott, admits that the General



"assumed" it on the retreat, saying that, "acting on his own responsibility, he now for the first time during the day assumed the supreme direction. Without orders from any person, he rallied such of the fugitives as would obey him, joined them to a detachment which had not arrived in season to share in the combat, and took possession of Prospect Hill, and there encamped that very night." And with the historian this was the last of "Old Put." But where, in God's name, was Prescott? If he was the supreme commander in the battle, who but he at that awful crisis in the fortunes of the day should have taken the "supreme direction" of affairs, "rallied" the breaking and wasting forces that had fought like demigods all along that open and extended line, and twice vanquished the haughty and powerful foe, and then have led them off the field to a place of safety? What! when the fierce fight at the fence had saved him and his men from capture, fly from his fort as soon as chance permitted, and hie to headquarters in the distance, and leave an "interloper" and "intermeddler," a "coward" and a "traitor" to assume the "supreme direction" and take charge and care of the central and remaining body of the army, who were tired and torn with almost incredible service for their country! And was that the military conduct for one who had been chosen as the chief commander? Or did he or any one else ever cause the alleged rude and reckless usurper of his supreme command to be duly punished for his lawlessness and audacity? And why not? Why? Because he was chief at the retreat and at Prospect Hill, just as he was chief at the beginning of the battle and all through it. He "assumed" nothing after the fight that he had not assumed before it and the fact that he was supreme after the conflict ended is incontestable proof that he was supreme from the first; and this lends an increased interest and attractiveness to the Somerville eminence and its surroundings. For, without him and his selection of the place for encampment, and his "supreme direction," what would have become of the recent celebration, and who would have ever heard the eloquent speeches of Mayor Glines, Governor Bates, Lieutenant-Governor Guild, and Mr. Ayer? Would the flag of the crosses and the stripes, to say nothing of the Connecticut



banner, have been unfurled on the hill as they were, and would Washington have visited the spot as he did, and would all the noted warriors and their soldiers who have been referred to have trod the soil, and would the beautiful park ever have been laid out, and the memorial tower ever have been built? Would Somerville have been what it justly claims to be to-day?

My letter is already much too long, and yet there are certain other associations of the hill of which I fain would write. Putnam had with him while he was first stationed at Cambridgeport two sons, Israel and Daniel. Israel was in the battle, as well as his father. Daniel, who rose to be a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of Connecticut, wished also to accompany the expedition, thinking he might be of some use, though but a boy of fifteen. His father thought he could get on without him, and directed him to stay behind at the Inman House, his own headquarters. The son soon heard of the fight, and was anxious lest his father might have been hurt or killed, but was presently told that he was safe at Prospect Hill, and, accordingly, he went thither at once to find him. Long afterward he gave this account of the discovery: "There I found him about ten o'clock on the morning of June 18, dashing about among the workmen, throwing up intrenchments, and often placing a sod with his own hands. He wore the same clothes he had on when I left him thirty-eight hours before, and affirmed that he had never put them off or washed himself since, and we might well believe him, for the aspect of all bore evidence that he spoke the truth." Surely the scene must have somewhat resembled that of Lechmere Point, to which reference has been made, let go the weather and the thaw.

Putnam and his chief command on that hill were immediately and fully recognized by General Ward and the authorities at Cambridge, as if in that capacity he had brought out from the furnace of affliction the remnant that should be saved. Ward quickly reinforced him, sending him two days after the battle not only "half of the Connecticut forces," but also "one-half by companies" of the regiments of Colonels Nixon, Brewer, Scammans, Gerrish, Mansfield, Woodbridge, and Gardner. So tells us

the Orderly Book of Nathan Stow, from which we cull several particulars more. The General Orders for July 4 stated: That Hon. Artemus Ward, Charles Lee, Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam, Esq., are appointed major-generals of the American army by the Continental Congress, and due obedience is to be paid to them as such; and, That all the troops of the several colonies which have been raised, or may hereafter be raised, for the support and defense of the liberties of America are received into the pay and service of the Continental Congress, and are now the troops of the United Provinces of North America, and it is hoped that all distinctions of colonies will be laid aside. The General Orders for July 16 by Major-General Putnam commanded: That to-morrow morning precisely at six o'clock all officers and soldiers in the camp attend on Prospect Hill at the usual place of prayers, there to hear read by Mr. Leonard (chaplain) the manifesto of the Hon. Continental Congress, containing their reasons for taking up arms. Putnam was still in command on Prospect Hill July 18, when he instructed the officers to warn the soldiers to be on parade at four o'clock, and be ready for action at once, as by some movements on Boston Common it appears that they (the enemy) have some intention of coming out. Such proclamations on Prospect Hill, thus early giving expression to the advanced views of freedom and independence for America are a lasting honor to Somerville, and are full worthy to be remembered in connection with Washington's visit there, when January 1, 1776, the flag of "alternate hues" was hoisted in token and publication of "the cementing of the thirteen American colonies in a common bond against British oppression." Nearly six months before, as we have seen, the spirit of liberty was there equally manifest and equally comprehensive in its sweep. Good for Somerville, we say again; and pleasant it is to remember that, while Putnam and Greene were there in command, they were associated together with the "Father of His Country" in the same purposes, aspirations, and endeavors, and all were of one mind and heart.

Prospect Hill encampment presented a busy scene under Putnam's command, as afterward. Washington's first visit to

the encampment was on the seventh of July, five days after his arrival at Cambridge. In General Orders he here approved the sentence of the Court that had dismissed Captain John Callender from further service in the ranks as an officer for alleged cowardice in the battle, but subsequently, when the soldier had greatly distinguished himself for courage and fidelity as a volunteer, he caused the stain to be removed from all the army records. Three days before this visit was the "mournful occasion" of the funeral obsequies of the brave Bunker Hill hero and martyr, Colonel Thomas Gardner, whose regiment belonged to Putnam's forces, and now joined in fitting honors to the memory of their late and lamented commander.

There was constant fear of some approach and attack on the part of the British. The encampment was not a little annoyed by discharges from their floating batteries on the river. While the work of intrenching still went on, there were daily drills or parades, with due inspection of arms and ammunition, and sentinels were ever on duty, so that at any moment all might be ready for action. Sergeants or others were sent forth from time to time to find out and report the state of things at Cambridge, or with the British forces at Bunker Hill; parties, also, for orders from headquarters and for supplies from the neighborhood. Grass was collected for the cattle, soon to be slaughtered as food for the soldiers. Officers were appointed to number and name such members of the regiments as were sick or wounded or dead, or were on furlough or had deserted, whether they had been in the battle or not. The kitchens were examined and kept neat and clean, and strict care was taken that the men should be properly provided for at their meals, while there was a close watch of the sale or use of intoxicating liquors, with a severe punishment of any who should tempt others to partake of them. Cursing and swearing were sternly forbidden, and moral and patriotic lessons were taught and enforced; yet Nathan Stow's *Orderly Book* abounds with many a record which tells of courts-martial for shameful offenses. Among the thousands there on the hill all was stir and vigilance, though there was no occasion for actual fighting; yet it is clear that General

Putnam knew well not only how to build fortifications, but also how to command, maintain law and order, care for all, make right the rule, and win admiring confidence and love.

In what I have written I have said much about Bunker Hill, as well as Prospect Hill, because they really go together as making a single whole. They are so vitally connected with each other that in the best sense they cannot be considered apart. The one story runs into the other, and the latter derives its true significance from the former. It is quite curious or noteworthy how afraid Prescott writers are of the bond between the two, and how prone they are to stop with the battle and to make little or nothing of what took place just after the retreat. Frothingham says in a foot-note that Putnam "retreated with that part of the army that went to Prospect Hill and remained here through the night!" Dr. George E. Ellis, warm friend and grandiloquent eulogist of Prescott, and mortal enemy and vehement abuser of Putnam, leaves the latter out of the account altogether, after having caricatured his matchless service at the rail fence, and simply says this: "The British lay on their arms all night at Bunker's Hill, discharging their pieces against the Americans, who were safely encamped upon Prospect Hill at the distance of a mile!" H. B. Dawson, historian and Englishman, who could never forgive Putnam for rending the American colonies from the British empire as he thought he did, and calls him "traitor" and whatever else of the kind, does not even mention him or Prospect Hill after his long account of the engagement! The reason for all these slights or all this belittling or obscuration is obvious. The "supreme direction" which Bancroft allows Putnam in the retreat, and which he certainly exercised then and on Prospect Hill, and the recognition and reinforcements which he received from headquarters while he was there, are so strong an argument that he was chief before, that such men as Frothingham, Ellis, and Dawson do not like to follow him thither and face the inevitable conclusion that he was also supreme commander of the American forces in the Battle of Bunker Hill, as he himself repeatedly said he was whenever occasion required him to say it; and as innumerable soldiers who fought under



him then and there, and military officers, statesmen, governors, lawyers, jurists, poets, scholars, clergymen, journalists, and college presidents and professors have said it for him for a hundred and twenty-eight years.

The battle ended, he was the one hero of the day. Immensely popular before, he was more than ever a favorite now. The country resounded with his praises. Toasts were drunk to his honor on both sides of the Atlantic. He and Washington dined often together, and were most intimate friends, and he who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen" gave his veteran companion successively the highest commands he had at his disposal; as when, under his authority, Putnam, with his troops, entered and took possession of Boston as soon as the British had been compelled to leave the city, and as afterward he was chief in the New York campaign, at Philadelphia, and elsewhere. Nor do we find that after the battle Washington or the public took any particular notice of Prescott whatever. Yet Prescott was a brave and faithful soldier, though previous to his command of the redoubt on Breed's Hill he had seen but little military service. Later he served under Putnam in New York, and undoubtedly performed his duty there as nobly as he had done it at the fort. During the war he quit the army and returned to the quiet of his own home at Pepperell, where he lived and died, respected and honored to the last by his friends and fellow-citizens and by the people at large. But the contention that when he was colonel of one of the regiments at Cambridge, just before he went with his detachment to Breed's Hill, and when he was surrounded by as many as eight generals and thirty colonels, a large proportion of whom, Putnam included, had had much experience and had gained high merit and distinction in previous wars, Prescott, with his then limited service and fame, was selected out of them all, and jumped over the heads of all these noted and scarred defenders of their country, to be the supreme commander in the daring enterprise close at hand, and in whatever conflict it might involve, is one of the most preposterous claims that ever challenged the attention or assent of sane or intelligent minds. To



those who are inclined to credit the claim, it may kindly be hinted that colonels do not command their superiors in rank, to which it may be added that Colonel Prescott gave no order to General Putnam, from the beginning to the end, but Putnam ordered Prescott and forces all along the line, and was obeyed. And Putnam it was, who, while Prescott was safe in his fort, and never left it until it was taken by the British, braced the provincials in the open to the long and perilous contest by his indomitable spirit, taught doubting England and the world once for all that Americans could and would fight for their liberties, whatever the cost, and made a seeming defeat a real and inestimable victory. It made sure the final triumph, and Franklin, when he heard of it, wrote to his English friends, "England has lost her colonies forever," and she had.

What do all these incontrovertible facts mean? What is the one just and sure interpretation of them? Let us follow no false guides, however learned, eminent, or sincere they may be, but answer the question for ourselves. From time immemorial such men have been on the wrong side in almost every important controversy, historical, scientific, or what not. Time has proved how mistaken they were, whether the subject was slavery, witchcraft, the Ptolemaic theory, the story of Adam and the Fall, or any other. Majorities, however imposing and influential, are not always in the right. The history of Bunker Hill and Prospect Hill, in all its fullness, is a matter of greater moment than some seem to think. Each one must study it impartially as best he can, and decide for himself what is the truth it teaches, assured that the truth will finally prevail.

A. P. Putnam.

Salem, December 30, 1903.

## HON. AUSTIN BELKNAP.

The death of Hon. Austin Belknap at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Roswell C. Downer, in Roxbury, on the ninth of December, 1902, removed from the activities of life one who had for nearly fifty years been a useful and honored citizen of Somerville, a man of unblemished reputation in private and public life, a man in whom there was no guile, who hated deceit, and whose life was open, frank, and honest.

Mr. Belknap was born in Westboro, Mass., July 18, 1819, the son of John and Ruth (Fay) Belknap. His early education was obtained in the district school of Westboro and the Worcester Academy, taking a course in civil engineering in the latter institution. After a brief experience in railway construction, he came to Boston in 1843, entering the produce business, in which he continued until the day before his death, covering a period of nearly sixty years.

Mr. Belknap became a resident of Somerville in 1853. He was a man of studious habits, and his early education was supplemented and broadened by a careful and judicious course of reading and private study, accumulating in a few years a valuable private library. After he was fifty years of age, he began the study of French, soon learning to read in that language with ease. He took a lively interest in municipal affairs, serving the town efficiently and intelligently as a member of the School Committee in '62, '63, and '64; as a member of the last three Boards of Selectmen in '69, '70, and '71. He was a trustee of the Public Library in '73 and '74, and was the third mayor of the city, serving two terms in '76 and '77. During his term of service as mayor, he was actively identified with two important city improvements, the extension of a main line of sewer from Kent street, via Beacon street, Somerville avenue, Mossland street, and Elm street to Davis square, and the completion and dedication of the Broadway park, which was begun under the administration of Mayor Furber. To all the important work done by the city under his administration Mr. Belknap gave his personal attention, preventing the possibility of jobbery and un-

necessary expense to the city, securing as good work as might be done for a private individual. While Mr. Belknap protected the city from dishonesty and corruption in carrying out public improvements, he was broad and wise in his policy.

Mr. Belknap married Miss Jane P., eldest daughter of the late Holloway and Frances (Read) Brigham, of Westboro, by whom he had three children, two of whom survive him, Mrs. R. C. Downer and Robert W. Belknap. Mrs. Belknap died several years before her husband.

For many years Mr. Belknap was active in Free Masonry, being a member of John Abbot Lodge, the Somerville Chapter, and the De Molay Commandery. But, while fond of social life, his chief recreation was found at his own fireside with his beloved books. As we close this hurried outline of a busy life, a life that was not lived in vain, let us quote from Pope, his favorite author:—

“Unblemished let me live, or die unknown,  
O grant an honest fame, or grant me none.”

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### HORACE CARR WHITE.

BY the death of Dr. H. C. White, on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1903, Somerville lost one of her best-known and most esteemed citizens. In 1874, when he moved from his native state of Maine, he made his home among us, and from that time, by the practice of his profession, by his services on the school board, and in his more public capacity as a representative in the state legislature, he served this community most wisely and faithfully. The high regard in which he was held by his fellow-citizens was manifested by the large concourse of people that attended his funeral, one of the largest ever known in Somerville. In recognition of his high services as a public-

mindful citizen, and as a fitting tribute to his memory, the flags of the city, by the order of the mayor, were displayed at half-mast.

The funeral was at the Baptist Church on Cross street, of which Dr. White was a consistent and devoted member, and the sermon by his pastor, the Rev. John R. Gow, was in full sympathy with the occasion. No words are more appropriate for this brief sketch of Dr. White's career than those of Mr. Gow, from whom we would quote the following:—

"All the problems in the relations between man and man might be settled if all men would live as wisely, independently, bravely, and unselfishly as Dr. White has lived, and in all the issues there is, after all, but one issue for each of us: whether we will be as true to the example of this good friend of ours as he has ever been to us, and to his Great Examiner.

"We thank God, then, for a man who has given us a good opinion of humanity. We thank Him that the message of the Master has been exemplified before our eyes in one who has sought to do unto others as he would that they should do to him."

As Dr. White was a member of the Somerville Historical Society, it is fitting that the pages of its quarterly publication preserve this outline of a life which nearly reached the allotted limit of three-score years and ten.

Horace Carr White, the son of Gideon and Rhoda (Springer) White, was born in Bowdoin, Me., January 26, 1836. His family early removed to Litchfield, Me., where he attended the Liberal Institute, but on account of trouble with his eyes, he was unable to carry out his plans for a college course. He graduated from the medical department of Bowdoin College in 1859, and after practicing in Lisbon Falls, in 1862 he entered the army as assistant surgeon of the Eighth Maine regiment. When he returned, much broken in health from overwork and exposure, he remained at Lisbon Falls until his removal to Somerville in 1874. For twelve years he was a valuable member of the school board, and he served in the

Massachusetts House of Representatives for the years 1897-'98-'99-1900. During this time he was on various important committees, as the one on metropolitan affairs, of which he was chairman two years. Dr. White was identified with all educational and temperance measures in which the city was interested. His work in leading the movement which resulted in the establishment of the Somerville hospital is well known to the people of this city. Besides being a member of the above-mentioned church, he belonged to several military and medical organizations, and various secret orders.

Dr. White married Miss Mary L. Randall, of Harpswell, Me., who, with two daughters and a son, survives him. The home is on Perkins street.

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## M. AGNES HUNT.

By Anna Parker Vinal.

M. Agnes Hunt, a member of this society, was born in Southampton, N. Y., in 1839, and died in Somerville November 24, 1903.

Her father, Rev. Samuel Hunt, preached for many years in Franklin, Mass.; he was one of the Abolitionists, and for upholding the cause of the negro was dismissed by his parish. From him and her grandfather, who gave money to found Amherst College, she inherited her strong patriotism; this enabled her as a young girl to send the money given her for a long-coveted black silk dress to the Sanitary Commission when they called for funds during the Civil War.

She was educated in the district and select schools of Franklin, the English and Classical School of Walpole, Mass., and at Ipswich Female Seminary; she excelled in mathematics.

At the age of twenty-two she was called upon to manage her father's household, and also to attend to the duties in parish work



devolving upon the minister's wife, with the result that her health gave way for a time.

She was privileged, as the daughter of an ardent Abolitionist, to meet many noted people, not only at her father's house, but at the home of Asa Fairbanks in Providence, a firm friend of Rev. Mr. Hunt. Through her father, she met Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, William Lloyd Garrison, Vice-President Henry Wilson, and many others. In 1873 she came to Somerville, where she identified herself with the Prospect Hill church, and for a number of years was actively interested in its work, filling several important positions.

During the Spanish war she was untiring in working for the relief of the soldiers. She belonged to the Volunteer Aid. Her patriotism led her to be interested in the Historical Society from its formation, and she was a constant attendant at the meetings. Miss Hunt was an extremely energetic woman; her cheerfulness during her last illness made the sick room a place where it was a delight to be. Many friends mourn her loss.

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### MARY M. McKAY.

In the death of Miss Mary M. McKay of 254 School street, the Historical Society has lost a faithful and devoted member.

Miss McKay was the daughter of the late George and Jane McKay of Charlestown, where she was born sixty years ago. For the past fourteen years she had made her home with her sister, Mrs. James G. Hinckley, of this city. Her death occurred after a five weeks' illness, on Saturday, August 29, 1903. Besides Mrs. Hinckley, two other sisters, Mrs. Jacob T. Hutchinson and Miss Eliza J. McKay, also a member of this society, and a brother, George E. McKay, superintendent of the Boston markets, are left to mourn her loss. The interment was in the family lot at Mt. Auburn.

Miss McKay, by her kind and cheerful disposition, and by her many other admirable qualities of mind and heart, won the esteem and friendship of a large circle of friends in this vicinity.

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